# Daily Report

# Latin America

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Monday
15 April 1991

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## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-91-072* *15 April 1991*

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## Central American Security Commission Meets

*PA1404125191 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Apr 91 p 12*

[Report by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] Only three countries (Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica) had presented their respective inventory of weapons by yesterday, the first day of sessions of the fourth meeting of the Central American Security Commission, which is being held in Managua.

Central American deputy defense ministers and deputy foreign ministers, as well as the Panamanian ambassador to Nicaragua, are attending the regional security negotiations, which are one of the mandates of the Esquipulas II Agreements.

Nevertheless, it was learned that if El Salvador and Guatemala do not present their inventories—as they agreed to do at Tegucigalpa in November—by the end of the meeting, which ends today at the Camino Real Hotel, the OAS secretary general will become the trustee of the inventories turned in by the other Central American nations.

This would result in a stalemate of the process that seeks a reasonable balance of forces in the region, an issue which was first brought up in the Contadora Group negotiations.

President Chamorro briefly visited the deputy ministers and urged them to reach agreements that advocate peace. "My hopes are for a reduction in weapons. I want for Nicaragua what Sandino wanted, meaning a small army," the president said.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said in his inaugural speech yesterday that "security is not exclusively a military responsibility. The stability of a society cannot possibly depend on the number of its Armed Forces or the quality of its weapons. Security now means food security, social security, ecology security, and democratic security."

If a reasonable balance of forces in the region is achieved, it will help generate greater levels of confidence and security in a region that is evolving from war to peace, amid democratic processes that must be rapidly perfected and supported with social and economic progress.

Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, chief of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] Directorate of Public and Foreign Relations, has participated in the negotiations on security issues since the very beginning. He said that, in addition to the delivery of inventories, the Managua agenda includes points such as a review of the report from the technical inventory commission. This last element will give a reasonable balance of forces, which is the final phase of the whole negotiation.

Neither the world nor the United Nations has seen a balance being achieved based on taking inventory, meaning to note the number of everything one has. Wheelock believes that "once the inventories are submitted, there will be a top limit to the men and weapons in each nation."

Wheelock added: There are objective problems in the region concerning the process. The war in El Salvador and the situation in Guatemala represent a delay in the negotiation.

The deputy ministers included in their discussion a request to the UN secretary general to extend the mandate of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

General Lewis McKenzie, commander of the mission, told BARRICADA that his men could participate by disarming civilians or giving advice on the removal of mines in Nicaragua's border zones. This request must be forwarded to the UN Secretariat General so that it may be approved by the UN Security Council because ONUCA's mandate ends on 7 May.

## Chile's Silva Cimma on Latin American Integration

*PY0504144191 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Chile is ready to speed up the integration process with Bolivia, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has said in Bogota, where he is attending the Rio Group meeting of foreign ministers. The meeting is being held at San Carlos Palace, where the Colombian Foreign Ministry is headquartered. The Rio Group is made up of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Foreign Minister Silva said in Bogota that Chile intends to achieve full integration with all Latin American countries within the framework of its new foreign policy. Chile has signed bilateral agreements for economic cooperation and the creation of free trade zones with Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Silva Cimma said the integration process with Bolivia is developing positively and that Chileans and Bolivians are seeking new ways to speed up integration between the two countries at all meetings on Latin American integration.

## Cuba

### Colin Powell's Central America Tour Criticized

*PA1204144391 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Apr 91*

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] It is reported that General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is one of the Armed Forces' most brilliant strategists; there are those who claim that he is a strong candidate for a public post in a future U.S. Administration. The first may be true and the second one may be possible, but that is an issue that would require another analysis and, possibly, another program.

Latin American people can rest assured, however, that Powell is a faithful interpreter of the goals and needs of the most reactionary, warmongering, and aggressive groups in the United States. He proved nothing else in his recent, surprising, and brief tour through three Central American countries—where he showed the big stick of White House foreign policy, which he has already brandished against the people of Iraq and Panama.

The surprising thing is not that a U.S. military officer toured Central America, because—except during Sandinist times in Nicaragua—they have freely moved around in what they consider their backyard. The astonishing thing is that Powell is too important a figure to make a simple visit, or reconaissance trip, through a region whose priority seems to have increased in the Pentagon. It is also interesting to make a brief analysis of the countries visited by the U.S. general.

We will begin with Panama, the first victim of George Bush's administration and its hawks. The presence of the chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff in Panama, the invasion of which he personally prepared, and which was carried out directly under his orders, occurs at a time when Guillermo Endara's political power is at its weakest point. He is the president who was sworn in at a U.S. base while the Yankee fire massacred his people. Endara, a U.S. minion, also faces DEA charges that some of his enterprises had ties with drug trafficking.

The other country which was the object of Powell's visit is Honduras, also called the Central American aircraft carrier. In Honduras, there are 1,200 Pentagon troops and several installations that served as bases for the aggression against Nicaragua.

The roving general-turned-diplomat's biggest mistake occurred, however, in El Salvador, where he unwillingly praised President Alfredo Cristiani's position in the dialogue with the rebels. He brazenly and plainly threatened repeating in that small nation the operation carried out against Iraq, if the negotiation process fails. His statements were termed as abusive and reprehensible by different Salvadoran social, political, and labor groups which remembered that the conflict has been prolonged precisely due to U.S. support, and that peaceful solutions have been precluded by the stubbornness of officers who were trained in U.S. schools.

Encouraged by his victory in the unequal war against Iraq and imbued in his arrogance as imperialist proconsul in our current unipolar world, Colin Powell proved that when it comes to proving their will both he and his employers will not be stopped by things like national sovereignty and people's self-determination.

### UN Delegate Charges U.S. Stepping Up Blockade

*FL1304011891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Cuba charged today that the United States is stepping up its blockade, subversive actions, and radio and television propaganda because it has failed in its attempts to destroy the revolution and socialism on the island. In his remarks during the discussions of the UN Information Committee, Cuban delegate Ivan Mora Godoy asserted that for over three decades the country has been forced to deal with the attacks and propagandistic manipulations of which underdeveloped countries are victims. The diplomat added that during all these years almost everything happening in Cuba or related to Cuba has been systematically manipulated by the various U.S. Administrations which have used large multinational media corporations for this purpose.

He added that a television channel began its broadcasts over a year ago and that this channel, operated by the U.S. Informational Agency, is especially aimed against Cuba. In spite of the fact that U.S. President George Bush admitted to Congress that Cuba was successful in jamming the television signals and that the broadcasts were illegal, Mora Godoy stated that Washington continues to waste the funds from its national budget in that aggressive project against the revolution.

The Cuban diplomat charged that 15 years after the idea of a new international news order was approved, we sadly notice that nothing has changed; to the contrary, we find ourselves in a more unjust and unequal world.

### Castro Attends Reception at DPRK Embassy

*FL1304114591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night attended the reception held by DPRK Ambassador Pak Chung-kuk on the 79th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il-song. Fidel spoke with the Koreans who are working in Cuba and other guests, and talked with the ambassador and other members of the Korean diplomatic mission. Members of the Politburo, Secretariat, and Central Committee of our party were also present.

### Castro Attends Award Ceremony for Alberti

*FL1304115591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, attended the ceremony to grant an honorary doctorate of arts to Rafael Alberti. In a public, solemn ceremony held in the university auditorium, Dr. Armando Perez, the president of the University of Havana, awarded the Spanish poet this high honor for being the best Spanish-language poet of our century and for his more than 50 years of activism for freedom and justice for the peoples. [passage omitted]

### Castro Meets With Pan American Games Delegates

*PA1404173291 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has stated that, despite difficulties, the Cubans are working hard to ensure that the Havana 1991 Pan American Games have the required excellence. He said this during a meeting in Havana with the 104 delegates of the Olympic Committee and U.S. sports federations who attended a two-day workshop in Cuba. The U.S. sports delegates told the Cuban president that they were pleased with the work being done and regarded it highly. They also praised the hospitality they had received in Havana and Santiago de Cuba.

The leader of the Cuban revolution stated that the Cubans were going to keep this commitment satisfactorily, and ensured the delegates that the Pan American Games installations would be ready before its inauguration on 2 August 1991. During his talks with the U.S. sports representatives, Castro underlined that the games would be simple and modest. He also added that the construction work is being done with the voluntary participation of the people, as they will benefit the most from these installations.

### Second Group of Health Workers Returns From Iraq

*FL1304121091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Another group of 45 internationalist health workers who had served in Iraq arrived in our country last night, making them the second group of these workers to return to Cuba. They were met at the airport by Public Health Minister Julio Teja; Roberto Robaina, an alternate member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists; and Yolanda Ferrer, secretary general of the Cuban Women's Federation. This second group was made up of 44 women and one man, and they expressed their enthusiasm and willingness to uphold the name of Cuba again wherever this may be necessary. Two more groups, to complete the total of 182 health workers who were working in Iraq, will return over the next few days, before 20 April.

### State Airline Denies Reported Privatization Plans

*PA1504045291 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] The Cubana de Aviacion airline company has denied that it is negotiating to sell 60 percent of its shares to VASP [Sao Paulo Airline], a Brazilian private enterprise.

In a press release, the airline company rejected reports to this effect, attributed to VASP President Wagner Canhedo, by the international news agencies.

The communique states that Cuba approved the establishment of mixed enterprises with foreign capital a decade ago. It adds that currently these enterprises exist primarily in the tourist sector with the state retaining at least 50 percent of the shares.

### Biological Research Plant Under Construction

*FL1304015591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] The first factory for the industrial production of vaccines, the National Center for Biological Products will be ready before the end of June. The plant will produce the hepatitis type-b vaccine which could be sold on a large-scale basis inside and outside the national territory.

Over 400 construction workers from five brigades of the Blas Roca Calderio Contingent, the Youth Labor Army, and Havana's Engineering Projects Construction Enterprise No. Two, are taking part in the construction. The building that will be used for filling and freeze-drying the vaccines is receiving the final touches. The ceilings and lights are being installed and other details of the civil construction are being completed.

The National Center for Biological Products will have facilities for vaccine production and culture and diagnosis resources that will be used by Latin American and Third World countries, among other markets. Research will also be conducted and biologic[illegible] products needed to face possible biological warfare will be obtained.

This center is part of the group of institutions created in the field of biology in the country's biology front.

### Nuclear Research Center Wins Vanguard Status

*FL1204124991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] One of the most important achievements of the Center for Applied Research in Nuclear Development in the three and a half years since it was established is that it has made more than 30 marked composites and prepared radioactive medicines. This institution is making important contributions to biotechnology, health, the food program, nuclear electronics, and other specialties.

These results were stressed by Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, the executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, and won national vanguard status for the center, granted by the Cuban Workers Federation at the suggestion of the Education, Science, and Sports Union. The Radiochemical and Radiation Techniques Department was declared a nationally outstanding group.

[Begin Castro Diaz-Balart recording] The methods developed by you in these years and the excellence you have acquired make it possible for us to make an important contribution to this area of the economy, which has a high priority right now. This is why I would also like to take the opportunity at this ceremony to inform you, to communicate to this group, that because of the importance of the work you are doing in this field, the highest leadership of our country has recently decided to link this center to, or incorporate this center into, the western region scientific and technical complex. [end recording]

### PRC Justice Ministry Delegation Begins Visit

*FL1204153191 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] A delegation from the PRC headed by Dr. Huang Jiahua, ambassador and legal adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Relations, is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the Ministry of Justice. The delegation is also made up of [name indistinct], director of legal and judicial aid of the Ministry of Justice; Xiang Yongzhen, deputy chief judge of the Economic Division of the Supreme People's Court; and (Su Jong), third secretary of the Treaties and Laws Department. (Xiang Naijeng), second secretary of the Latin America Department, is also part of the PRC delegation.

The visitors were met by Justice Minister Carlos Amat Flores. In addition to negotiations with the Cuban side, they are to tour work centers and places of tourist and historic interest, thus filling out their work agenda.

## Cayman Islands

### Britain's Decision on Death Penalty Protested

*FL1204182091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1142 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, April 12, CANA—Cayman Legislative Assembly backbenchers, joining other parliamentarians in British Caribbean colonies, on Friday expressed displeasure at Britain's decision to abolish the death penalty in the islands.

"The unilateral decision of the UK Government and the Cayman Islands Government to abolish the death penalty has shocked the public and ourselves," said a statement signed by the seven backbenchers in the Assembly.

In March, the British Government announced it would abolish the death penalty for murder in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands and replace it with life imprisonment. The Cayman Government said the decision was announced by the UK after consultation with the governments in the respective colonies.

"Such an important and moral issue should have been brought to an open sitting of the Legislative Assembly and to the public by the governor and the elected members of Executive Council," said backbenchers Roy Bodden, Haig Bodden, McKeeva Bush, John Jefferson, Jr., John McLean, Gilbert McLean, and Truman Bodden.

The move by the UK Government to abolish the death penalty was "extremely unusual and high-handed" since the matter "should only rightly be changed by the (Cayman Islands) Legislative Assembly," the group said.

## Dominican Republic

### * 1990 Trade Deficit Tops $1.1 Billion

*91CA0090A Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 1D*

[Article by Jose Mercedes Feliz]

[Text] In 1990 there was a negative foreign trade balance for the Dominican Republic of about $1.1031 billion. Exports reached $703.9 million, and imports totaled $1.807 billion, according to the Central Bank.

The bank pointed out that the total deficit is $63.7 million higher than the deficit recorded in 1989, when it reached $1.0394 billion.

According to the bank's report, "Behavior of the Principal Economic Indicators in 1990," the increase in the trade deficit was due to a decline in the value of exports by $220.5 million, or 23.9 percent, since imports fell by $156.8 million, or 8.0 percent, compared with total imports in 1989.

In 1990 exports were worth $703.9 million, or lower than the total of $924.4 million in 1989.

The Central Bank attributed this situation to the decline in the export value of ferronickel, sugar, coffee, and cacao, in addition to other, nontraditional exports.

It specified that during 1990 364,877 metric tons of raw sugar were exported, worth $145.3 million, or $11.8 million less than the value of such sugar exports in 1989.

That decline was the result of a lower quantity of sugar exported. Prices showed an increase of $3.54 per 100 pounds, compared to prices in 1989.

According to the Central Bank, the export value of refined sugar rose to $1.7 million, with 3,208 metric tons shipped abroad at an average price of $23.62 per 100

pounds, which was $1.3 million less than the value of refined sugar exported in 1989.

**Imports**

In 1990 the value of imported merchandise amounted to about $1.807 billion. They were $156.8 million less than "miscellaneous" and mineral carbon imports. These two categories were down by $256.7 million and $17.0 million, respectively, compared to 1989.

Imports of petroleum and related products amounted to $508.6 million. They amounted to 22.5 million barrels at an average price of $22.56 per barrel, which represented a total of $103.6 million, compared to imports of the same item worth $405 million in 1989.

Imports of crude oil by the Dominican Petroleum Refinery were valued at $146.2 million, a reduction of $28.8 million compared to 1989 imports, due to a reduction in the volume of crude oil purchased of 2.138 barrels.

The report states that the average import price of hydrocarbons coming from Venezuela declined by $1.10 per barrel, while imports coming from Mexico increased in price by $3.08 per barrel.

Imports of crude oil by the Falconbridge mining company increased to $55.1 million due to an increase in the price per barrel of $2.43; representing a $4.8 million increase over imports in 1989, when they were worth $50.3 million.

At the same time imports of petroleum products amounted to $307.3 million, or $127.6 million higher than imports in 1989, when they amounted to $179.7 million.

The report mentions that the National Institute of Price Stabilization (INESPRE) imported food products, principally soya oil, beans, sunflower oil, powdered milk, cotton seed oil, and rice worth $62.9 million, or an $8.4 million (15.4 percent) increase over such imports in 1989.

Meanwhile, in 1990 the Dominican Mills Company imported wheat worth $36 million, an increase of $4.9 million compared to 1989.

The value of "other" imports was $1.1945 billion, which reflects a reduction of $256.7 million or 17.7 percent, compared to such imports in 1989, when they amounted to about $1.4512 billion.

## Grenada

### Venezuela Asked for Exploration, Construction Aid

*FL1204131791 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite has asked Venezuela for assistance in oil exploration and in establishment of an oil refinery on his island. Mr. Brathwaite met with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez shortly after arriving in Caracas for a two-day visit. Grenada has also asked for assistance to build houses and sports facilities.

## Preval Absence at High Chamber Displeases Senators

*FL1204201091 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 11 Apr 91*

[Excerpts] The senators displayed their displeasure yesterday at the Legislative Palace following the absence of Prime Minister Rene Preval, who was scheduled to be present before the High Chamber to discuss problems related to the high cost of living, the Artibonite Valley, and other problems of national interest.

According to Senator Dejean Belizaire, the absence of the prime minister and the manner in which he explained himself is an insult to the High Chamber. Jean-Marie Ferari met with Dejean Belizaire.

[Begin Jean-Marie Ferari recording] [passage omitted] It was on the evening of 9 April that a letter without heading and not signed by agronomist Rene Preval arrived to announce to the senators that Rene Preval would not be able to attend. [passage omitted] The senators proceeded, however, to issue a new invitation to the prime minister of the government to come and discuss the problems. This invitation is probably for sometime between now and next Wednesday [17 April]. [end recording]

## Preval Apologizes to Senate

*FL1204220091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] What happened in the Chamber yesterday? Prime Minister Rene Preval offered his apologies to the Chamber of Senators for his absence the day before yesterday [10 April], when he was expected to set the government's position on the problem of the high cost of living, the agricultural files, and other questions regarding the nation's life.

The prime minister alleged he was sick following an exhausting trip to Miragoane, where an operation to prevent an illegal unloading at the Miragoane wharf took place. In addition, he had received the letter too late. The prime minister did not, however, have time to answer the senators on the country's large dossiers. He accepted an invitation to come next Wednesday [17 April].

The Senate discussed the appointments of several Haitian consuls and ambassadors abroad. The Senate of the Republic has decided to summon Minister of Foreign Affairs Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis to state whether the appointments have really been made. The Senate will declare null and void if the government still maintains its position. [sentence as heard] The Senate will write to all embassies and the United Nations to tell them not to acknowledge the appointments.

The senators also stressed the separation of the diplomatic function and the state service. Even though the government allegedly implemented Article 295 of the Constitution, which it thinks has given it full power, this power does not concern the posts of ambassadors, consuls, and so on.

The Senate discussed the arrest of former President Mrs. Ertha Pascal-Trouillot. Considering that the U.S. Embassy has already reacted, that French President Francois Mitterrand asked President Aristide by fax to release Mrs. Ertha Pascal-Trouillot as soon as possible, and that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez sent his representative in his special plane to offer his sympathies to the former president of the country, Senator Guy Bauduy finds that the Senate of the Republic is too slow in discussing this matter. Furthermore, Senator Guy Bauduy asked if the Senate has given its power to foreign countries.

This was the situation at the Senate yesterday. There were other topics discussed, such as the interpretative law of the 7 March law that the Chamber of Deputies sent to the Senate after amendment. The Senate has to determine its position related to this matter.

### Justice Department Seeks Former Police Chief

*FL1204202591 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 11 Apr 91*

[Text] According to Radio Soleil this morning, Colonel Jean-Claude Duperval, former Port-au-Prince police chief, is wanted by the Justice Department. Col. Duperval is accused of taking part in an abortive bid for power attempted by Lafontant on 7 January. Several other military men, among them Ludovic Rene, an Army official, are also accused of complicity in this matter.

### Government Seeks Emergency Loan From Local Sector

*FL1204221091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] The Aristide-Preval government sends out an emergency call to the local financial sectors for a loan in order to fight unemployment and the high cost of living. The government of the Republic acknowledges the gravity of the situation regarding unemployment and the nation's food and hopes to obtain this loan by noon on Monday [15 April]. Interested persons may contact government officials at the following phone numbers: 22-5303, 22-5304, 22-5308. Commerce Minister Smarck Michel will meet with the press at the National Palace at 1230 [1630 GMT] to talk about floating this loan.

### Socialist Leaders Attend Meeting in Aruba

*FL1204211091 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 11 Apr 91*

[Text] According to two press releases sent to us, several socialist leaders have traveled out of the country. On 9 April, Victor Benoit, the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] secretary general, flew to Aruba in order to take part in a Latin American conference organized by the Socialist International from 10-11 April. This note is signed by Oriol Theodore, who is in charge of public relations and press at Conacom. Serge Gilles, the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra] leader and senator for Central Plateau Central, has departed for the same meeting. The secretariat of Panpra international relations advises party members as well as all partisans and the public in general that Senator Serges Gilles, Panpra coordinator general, and Pierre Edigene, in charge of information, flew to Aruba on 9 April in order to take part in an international meeting held by socialists from 10-11 April.

During this meeting presided over by Dr. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] leader in the Dominican Republic, and Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, PNP [Peoples' National Party] leader, matters will be debated regarding the Caribbean area economy that must be integrated into the Latin American bloc; solidarity in the Caribbean; human rights in Latin America; and the economic and political consequences of the Gulf war on the Caribbean. This delegation will return on 13 April.

This note is signed by Duly Brutus, secretary in charge of Panpra international relations.

### Israeli Delegation Evaluates Technical Needs

*FL1204235591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Report by correspondent Rotchil]

[Excerpts] An Israeli mission is visiting Haiti. This three-member delegation of agricultural experts intends to cooperate with Haiti in the agricultural sector. They have already met with President Aristide and several government ministers. Rotchil met with Jacques Deqel, head of the Israeli delegation.

[Begin Rotchil recording] The arena is being prepared for a new beginning and an intensification of Haitian-Israeli cooperation. An Israeli mission arrived in Port-au-Prince on 9 April. Their objective is to renew technical agreements signed between the two countries in 1970 and 1978 and to renew bilateral relations. The Israeli delegation made up of four members [as heard] includes two engineer-agronomists, one responsible for technical cooperation at the Israeli Foreign Affairs, and Jacques Deqel, Israeli nonresident ambassador to Haiti. The delegates of the Shamir government have already met with the minister of agriculture, the minister of public works, and the director general of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation. The topics at the meetings were agriculture, solar energy, and mining.

On 11 April, the delegation was received at the National Palace by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Ambassador

Deqel reaffirmed at this meeting the willingness of his government to cooperate with Haiti. Interestingly, the language used in this meeting was Hebrew. [passage omitted].

The two Israeli engineer-agronomists who are part of this mission must go to the northwestern region of the country for a firsthand look at the reality of the extensive drought there.

Diplomat Jacques Deqel, head of the delegation, specified that his country intends to double the scholarships offered to Haitians in different fields including health, agriculture, energy, transport, syndicalism, and mining. [end recording]

## Netherlands Antilles

### Ruling Parties Defeated on Three Islands

*FL150413549l Bridgetown CANA in English 2012 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[By Erasmus Williams]

[Text] Philipsburgh, St. Maarten, April 13, CANA—The ruling St. Martin Democratic Party lost its majority in Friday's election for the Island Council. But none of the eight parties in this Dutch-administered island secured enough seats to form a government, and a coalition appeared likely.

At the end of vote-counting Saturday morning, the Democratic Party [DP] had won three seats, the St. Martin Patriotic Alliance four, and the newly-formed Progressive Democratic Party, a breakaway faction of the DP, the other two. The DP had held seven of the nine seats, to the Alliance's two. Some 8,853 of the almost 13,000 voters went to the polls.

On Saba, the opposition Windward Islands People's Movement of Will Johnson defeated the ruling Saba Democratic Labour Movement, winning four of the five seats.

In St. Eustatius, the St. Eustatius Alliance was swept from power by the opposition Democratic Party, winning three of the five seats.

In Curacoa, the ruling party headed by Prime Minister Liberia Peters, scored a comfortable win in local elections, winning four of the five seats.

## Trinidad and Tobago

### UNC Chairman Predicts More Party Resignations

*FL1204144491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1138 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 12, CANA—Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago's United National Congress [UNC], Dr. Rampersad Parasram, is predicting more resignations from the opposition party, following Wednesday's stepping down of deputy political leader, Allan McKenzie. "Now that Mr. Mc Kenzie has resigned, I believe more executive members will hand in their resignations." Rampersad told the Caribbean News Agency.

McKenzie, a college principal, resigned from the second highest party post, complaining of in-fighting in the UNC. He said in his letter of resignation, made public, that he found it impossible to continue to function comfortably and effectively in light of feuding and apparent fragmentation of the executive and the party.

Said Parasram, "There is clearly a major rift which has surfaced in the party, and in my view, it's because (Basdeo) Panday and a small group have been critical of the current executive." Political leader Panday, a former foreign minister, is unhappy with the nine-month old executive [as received], which he feels is also undermining him, party insiders say.

Parasram, who claims to be the victim of a racist campaign by a group in the party, said the legitimate executive was being shunned by Panday. "It's a pity that before the party was actually formed, we spoke so much about democracy, and an open forum in which to air our views within the party, and deal with them. Now things have seem to gone haywire," said Parasram.

The UNC was formed in 1989, when Panday and other dissidents were expelled from the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction for publicly criticising political leader, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

### IMF Drawdowns Totaling $48 Million Made

*FL1304003091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2107 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 12, CANA—Declining oil prices have forced the Trinidad and Tobago's Government to make two drawdowns under the country's second stand-by arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Finance Minister Selby Wilson said Friday. Wilson told Parliament that it did not mean that government was entering into any new stand-by arrangement with the Fund.

The budget in December based on oil remaining at U.S. 22 dollars per barrel, is estimated to have a deficit of TT [Trinidad and Tobago] 634 million dollars (one TT dollar equals 23.5 U.S. cents) if oil prices average at U.S. 19 dollars. The loss of revenue from the oil sector is estimated at 771 million dollars for the petroleum-producing country.

Wilson said that because of the revised international outlook on oil prices, the government took the drawdowns totalling U.S. 48 million dollars on March 29. "The decision to make the drawndown was taken to ensure that the country has an adequate level of foreign

reserves to satisfy the country's needs in view of revised prospect for oil prices on the international market," he said.

He added: "...I want to make it abundantly clear that the decision to make these drawings from the IMF does not mean that the government is entering into any new arrangement with the Fund or that there are any additional conditionalities to be met."

Wilson said the government had met all the performance criteria under the second stand-by arrangement which ended on March 31. In presenting the seven billion dollar budget Wilson has said the government was not planning to exercise the option of making the final two drawndowns, unless there was "significant change in circumstances before 31 March 1991."

On Friday Wilson said he was "satisfied that the revised international outlook on oil prices has changed the circumstances significantly to justify making these drawdowns..." He also announced that the government intended to strengthen the fiscal monitoring process in order to achieve savings of 229 million dollars in expenditure. The government also plans to raise an additional 87 million dollars by domestic borrowing to finance the anticipated deficit.

With the downward revision of oil prices, the gross official international reserves figure is estimated to stand at U.S. 304 million dollars or 2.4 months of import cover. With oil remaining at U.S. 22 dollars, government international reserve figure was estimated at U.S. 501 million dollars or 3.9 months of import cover.

The finance minister also revised upwards, projections of non-oil revenue for the year by 164 million dollars. He said during the first quarter oil revenue increased by 291 million dollars.

### Government Job Losses Predicted

*FL1504144391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2221 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 12, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's opposition leader, Basdeo Panday, expects job losses in the public service because of lower than expected revenue from oil exports. In view of projected revenue shortfall, Panday predicted cuts in government expenditure.

"This would result in further unemployment, greater deprivation of services, and more suffering," he said. He complained that the government was taking the country further into debt with the recent drawing down of International Monetary Fund (IMF) money.

Finance Minister Selby Wilson on Friday announced in Parliament that government last month had taken the U.S. $48 million drawdowns to avoid a deficit of tt $634 million (one TT [Trinidad and Tobago] dollar equals 23.5 U.S. cents) in this year's budget. Government based its budget on oil remaining at U.S. $22 a barrel. But oil analysts predict oil stablising at U.S. $19 a barrel. Wilson said every dollar drop was costing the government U.S. $50 million in revenues from the oil sector.

"Mr. Wilson's statement makes it clear that the government has acknowledged that there is no way out of the IMF trap into which it has led this country," Panday said in an interview.

The minority People's National Movement's finance spokesman, Kenneth Valley, describing last year's budget as a "Saddam Husayn" one, said the government had been warned about the high oil price on [which] it based the budget.

### EC Lome Agreements Signed for $237 Million

*FL1504135791 Bridgetown CANA in English 1130 GMT 15 Apr 91*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 13, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago has signed an agreement with the European Community [EC] for $237 million (one TT [Trinidad and Tobago] dollar equals 23.5 U.S. cents) in grants and loans for the first five years under the Fourth Lome Convention. Under the agreement covering 1990-1994, the twin-island state will recieve a minimum of $95 million dollars in grants, and $142 million dollars in loans and other financial facilities.

The programme was signed Friday by External Minister Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo; and Peter Pooley, the European Commission's deputy director general for development; and Rex Speller, of the European Investment Bank.

The signing brings to $360 million the total financial contributions to Trinidad and Tobago from the European Community. The government and the Community have jointly agreed that the financial resources will be used primarily to assist in the development of tourism and in particular tourism infrastructure.

## Salinas Returns From Visit to Canada, U.S.

*PA1404184591 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari arrived at Mexico City's presidential hangar yesterday at 1355, aboard the airplane that flew him from San Antonio, Texas, thus ending his seven-day visit to several U.S. and Canadian cities. He disembarked the airplane accompanied by Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales, Jaime Puche Serra, commerce and industrial development secretary, and Presidency Information Director Otto Granados Roldan.

The president was welcomed at the airport by all the members of his cabinet and with the 21-gun salute befitting his status as the nation's chief. Before getting in his car to go to Los Pinos Presidential Palace, Salinas assessed his trip to the United States and Canada.

[Begin Salinas recording] The assessment is positive, and also encouraging, because we have kept our fundamental purpose, which is to promote Mexico's interests abroad while strengthening Mexico's sovereignty. [end recording]

## * Joint Opposition Candidate Nava Presents Views

*91CA00093A Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 748, 4 Mar 91 pp 14-17*

[Report by Gerardo Galarza]

[Text] San Luis Potosi—The official victor over PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] on two occasions, he saw the state governorship stolen from him in 1961 (they still say this here). Now, at age 76 and after five months of so far successful treatment for cancer, Salvador Nava Martinez is ready to begin another election campaign, this time as the first gubernatorial candidate officially backed by a multiparty coalition.

"Ideologies do not matter now. What is really important is getting a government that complies with the laws that we have, a government of transition towards democracy," says Dr. Nava, an ophthalmologist who is popularly and even generally known as "the doctor."

The first thing, he says in his living room, is to secure a government that respects and enforces the constitution and laws of the country and then to get the political parties to wage their battles however they want but on an equal footing. "I would call this a movement for constitutionalist democracy, and after that let everyone start out, fight, stir things up, and do whatever they want so that their ideas prevail among a majority of Mexicans."

He denies being a politician, even though a grassroots movement bears his name, "Navism." He refuses to pigeonhole himself ideologically, does not belong to any political party, and is eager to resume his morning swims, which provide him with "physical and mental relaxation." And he laughs readily when asked whether he vetoed the possible candidacy of Gonzalo Martinez Corbala by taking advantage of the visits that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari paid him when he was ill.

He says that he is not a legend or a caudillo, but in San Luis Potosi many think that Nava personifies the opposition. The San Luis Potosi opposition of all stripes sought him out as a gubernatorial candidate. Nava set one nonnegotiable condition: that he be a joint candidate, never one of a single party. State law used to allow for joint candidates but was amended a little over a month ago to ban them. The road that was left was a coalition, which in practice seemed impossible. Nava stuck to his condition.

As of the afternoon of 24 February support for Salvador Nava began coming in from parties like PAN [National Action Party], the PDM [Mexican Democratic Party], and the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], or from the latter itself with groups such as Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action (DHIAC) and the San Luis Potosi Civic Front (FCP), Nava's organization, the ADESE [Democratic Assembly for Effective Suffrage], and others. They are all using Nava as their catalyst and have given rise to a nonpartisan group called "Open Opposition," which brings together some 150 persons, among them professionals, businessmen, political leaders, and intellectuals, all on an individual basis; this group will in practice be the hub of Nava's new campaign.

Although the talks among the parties began months before Dr. Nava fell ill, in August 1990, today's opposition candidacy in San Luis Potosi was hatched a little over 32 years ago when Nava belonged to PRI and believed in the internal democracy that then presidential candidate Adolfo Lopez Mateos was preaching with his remark that "caciques will subsist as long as the people tolerate them." He says: "We joined PRI believing in internal democracy first and then in public democracy, and we saw that it was not true. And even now, 32 years later, we still think that the democracy that all the people want does not exist."

The cacique power of Gonzalo N. Santos endured in San Luis. Dr. Manuel Nava (the Navas, the father and four children, studied medicine) was the rector of the state university and won popular support for having opposed Santos's attempts to control the university politically. Manuel passed away, and Salvador continued the battle, along with many other San Luis Potosi residents, who wanted him nominated for mayor. PRI refused. The San Luis Potosi Civic Union was then formed, and it nominated Salvador Nava, who won a crushing victory.

As mayor Salvador Nava asked for a leave of absence to seek the PRI nomination for governor in 1961. Just as now, internal democracy did not work. On an invitation from the then leader of the CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations], Luis Vazquez Campos, Nava had breakfast with the national leader of PRI, Alfonso Corona del Rosal. Tomas Calvillo records their

conversation in his book "El navismo o los motivos de la dignidad" [Navism or the Motives of Dignity], which was originally his thesis at the Colegio de Mexico. Corona del Rosal simply told Nava:

"Doctor, you are not going to be the PRI candidate for governor of your state."

"General, you must be talking about the wrong state, because party conventions have not yet been held in San Luis Potosi," Nava replied.

"Even so, Doctor, with or without conventions you are not going to be the party's candidate, even if you win there, because besides the votes of individuals you need something else."

Nava asked whether that was the president's approval. Corona del Rosal told him that the president should not be brought into this. He asked Nava to be patient ("Later on there will be something else") and offered him a federal deputy's seat and reimbursement of whatever money he had spent on his preliminary campaign. Nava regarded the offers as insults and denied that he was just a political-office seeker. He said that he was running because a group of San Luis Potosi residents had asked him to. He recounted their conversation at a rally and decided then and there to seek the governorship as an independent. The PRI candidate was Manuel Lopez Davila, who was poorly received because of his lack of local roots.

Later, in the thick of the campaign, then deputies Carlos Hank Gonzalez and Enrique Olivares Santana, who were coordinating Lopez Davila's campaign, tried to convince Nava and Luis F. Rangel, his campaign chief, to withdraw his independent candidacy. They got nowhere. The July 1961 elections were held under army supervision. Although Nava's victory in the capital was acknowledged, the official victor was Lopez Davila. The army in practice took over the interim government of Francisco Martinez de la Vega. During the ensuing months there was almost a state of siege in San Luis Potosi, and public demonstrations were banned. Finally, in September, there was a crackdown, and many Nava supporters, starting with Nava himself, were arrested and jailed. Nava spent a week in Military Camp No. 1 in Mexico City and another three in Lecumberri.

Salvador Nava is a discreet man of courteous speech and proper manners. Here in San Luis he would be called a well-mannered man. He always puts "mister" before someone's name. When told that even PRI regards him as a strong candidate, but only in the capital of San Luis Potosi, he says:

"I am going to tell you what someone from PRI told me about 1961. He told it to me in 1979. He said: 'Doctor, I was among those who counted the votes in San Luis Potosi. I was one of the people in charge of doing things, and here (in the capital) you won by a much bigger margin that they acknowledged and you also won in most of the municipalities.'"

In 1963 Nava and his supporters tried to create the San Luis Potosi Democratic Party (PDP). Every obstacle was placed in their path, and again there was a crackdown against them. They did not achieve their objective. After that Salvador Nava returned to professional life, which has given him as much fame here as politics has, in his altogether unassuming office on Pascual M. Hernandez Street, where he may or may not charge a fee, depending on the patient. On Tuesday 26 February he kept appointments with old patients, but others found out, and "the line" formed once again.

He agrees with the general feeling among the people that he withdrew from political life because the governments of Antonio Rocha Cordero and Guillermo Fonseca Alvarez "did not harm, did not trample on" the people of San Luis Potosi. "The conditions did not exist for the people to rise up." He clarifies that the reason why he withdrew during the Lopez Davila administration was the "brutal repression of citizens. All rights were abolished here, and there was no authority to turn to. The opposition was being jailed, especially the workers, and there was no money to get them out. This is why I called on them to call off the formation of the PDP."

But then Carlos Jonguitud arrived to govern San Luis Potosi in 1979. "He never paid attention to San Luis Potosi. He was away from here for three years. People became very dissatisfied. No one was paying any attention to them. Widespread discontent arose, and the municipal elections were approaching (1982). The FCP [San Luis Potosi Civic Front] had been formed a year before, and it took out a full-page advertisement saying that it would nominate me and asking the parties to support my candidacy. PAN, PDM, and PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] heeded the appeal." Nava became the candidate of the first two and won again. Jonguitud could not tolerate this, and the confrontations began. The state government then suspended the provision of federal revenue-sharing moneys to the municipality. Nava called for the governor to be impeached.

Around that time he met Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the then secretary of planning and budget. "I spoke with him just once. He was courteous enough to receive me, and I explained my problem to him. He promised to look into the matter and to see whether he could help me. But I already knew, and it was later confirmed to me, that wherever I went to talk with an official, Jonguitud's recommendation would follow so that I would be told no. And tell me no, they did. He had a lot of power back then."

Nava has conversed with practically all of the presidents of the republic since Adolfo Lopez Mateos. He says: "Lopez Mateos preached democracy a great deal but never established it. Here in San Luis he allowed the massacre in the Plaza de Armas, no doubt so that the city government that I had left to run for governor would disappear."

"I spoke several times with Mr. Diaz Ordaz. I think that he was a very intelligent man, but to me he has a very large black mark on him because of what happened in 1968. I could not classify Mr. Echeverria and Mr. De la Madrid. I had a 10 or 15 minute talk with each of them, and that was it.

"I think that Mr. Salinas de Gortari is a quite intelligent man. I hope that from his high position he realizes what Mexico needs—that at least is my hope—and that he attaches very great importance to the political issue, from the standpoint of democracy."

In San Luis Potosi, where many people talk about politics, some say that Dr. Nava vetoed the possible PRI candidacy of Gonzalo Martinez Corbala, who is now the director of Infonavit [Institute of the National Fund for Workers Housing]. One of the pieces of evidence that support this account is that President Salinas de Gortari visited with him twice ("and was kind enough to call me several times on the phone as well") when the leader of the FCP spent five months in Mexico City as a patient under treatment. "Yes indeed, he showed me that kindness," he confirms.

"And how did you veto Deputy Martinez Corbala?"

"What they say about that makes me laugh. I do not know Mr. Martinez Corbala. I have absolutely nothing against him. Since I do not know him, I do not know what he is like. It makes me laugh when people say that Dr. Nava vetoed so and so."

Nava then laughs discreetly.

"But you did talk about politics in those conversations with Salinas de Gortari."

"Not at all."

"Did he ask you whether you were going to run?"

"No sir. Never. I told him at one point that I had been asked to and that I was thinking about it."

"And what did he say?"

"There was no reply. Nothing. I made a statement."

He refuses to discuss possible opponents. He says that he respects them all.

"It makes no difference who it is. They are all the same to me. It makes no difference whether it is one of the people who have been mentioned or a dark horse. I am even friends with some of them, or rather, my family is friendly with them. I will never run against a candidate. At the very least I respect people. They believe that. Fine, let them keep on believing it. To me they are all respectable. I am not against how they are chosen in the ruling party; I am against how they want to impose them on our towns. I will always oppose that system, but not them in particular. I will respect whoever runs."

"What about Senator Fernando Silva Nieto?"

"He was a colleague and is very good friends with my son-in-law. His wife was a friend of my only daughter. I have known them and I have high regard for them."

"Do you know any of the others?"

"Mr. Fausto Zapata. I have known him for some time. I respect him. I do not think ill of anyone. I think well of everyone."

"So will you defeat whomever they put up against you?"

"I do not know. There will be a battle, but I do not assume that I am going to win. I hope the people are the ones who win. If the people give the nod to the ruling party, fine, we in the opposition will lose and will know that that is what the people want."

Like those who support him, Salvador Nava feels that now once again the necessary conditions are in place to motivate the citizenry to vote and for the opposition to win, especially by getting those who stay away from the polls to vote; he regards them as the largest party in the state and in Mexico. "I think that the conditions are present because the last two governments here (Jonguitud's and Florencio Salazar Leopoldino Ortiz Santos's) have been guilty of many irregularities, and I think that people want a change."

He says that he is very pleased that such disparate parties and organizations have placed their trust in him. "Well, I do not know whether they will be proved wrong, but they think that I can do quite well, and this is why they have turned to me." He notes that it is very clear that he has not made any commitment to any party if he comes to power and that they agreed to that. "No cushy jobs and no shares of power." He has said that if he wins, he will put efficient, capable people on his team, without regard to their ideology or party affiliation.

"They sought me out because they thought that I could be useful. If they were wrong, that is their problem." He denies that he is a legend or an opposition caudillo. "No sir. I am a man of the middle class, an average fellow who has just happened to gain prominence at times, and that is it. If you tell the parties that, I think that they will feel very suspicious. The opposition does exist in San Luis Potosi."

Nava says: "To me, Navism is not Nava. Navism is, like back then when it was given the name, the awakening of a people who felt that their dignity was being trampled on by a cacique. That is where the name started, simply because a Nava headed it, because he placed himself in the forefront, but Navism is really a grassroots movement." A movement that political scholars regard as civic rather than ideological.

And Nava believes in civic movements rather than in political parties, which he does not deny are important and which he regards as necessary. Nevertheless, he thinks that civic movements motivate the citizenry more than political parties, which many people distrust because of the stigma that they acquire if their leaders

become involved in top-level negotiations. He says that the San Luis Potosi approach could be applicable to other states.

Here, PRI and PRI members think that the Nava candidacy will have no impact among the young people who did not live through the events from 1958 to 1963. "He is a candidate for the over-35 crowd. He means nothing and has nothing to offer young people." Nava replies with a question: "What does PRI mean to young people?"

"What does Nava have to offer to the parties and to citizens?"

He does not think it over long and summarizes his reply in a single word: justice. He adds the social facet to this when asked to describe himself ideologically. "Social justice cannot be pigeonholed," he says.

He is ready for the campaign, "which will not lapse into the demagoguery of paying a first visit to a place that you get to by crossing a river and riding several kilometers on horseback." He says that he feels fine physically and that according to clinical and laboratory tests and to his physicians, he has totally overcome his illness after five trying months of chemotherapy that kept opposition political parties, the news media, and the people of San Luis Potosi on tenterhooks.

He does not think that serious conflicts will arise among the political parties that are backing him. Right now they are discussing the coalition's symbol and the joint platform. But the campaign for governor will be run separately by a committee that Nava himself will chair and will be financed through a committee outside the parties, which will run their campaigns for senator and deputy independently.

In the meantime, Salvador Nava says that party ideologies are not the important thing now. Right now, he contends, the basic thing is to achieve a government of transition to democracy, a government that respects and enforces existing laws and that promotes free elections. Then the parties can do whatever they have to do to convince people of the merits of their ideologies. "A real political opening would also bring economic improvement," he asserts.

## Costa Rica

### Bomb Threat Forces Evacuation in Golfito Zone

*PA1204191691 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1736 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] The Golfito Free Zone [Deposito Libre de Golfito] has been closed due to a bomb threat. The so-called People's Revolutionary Movement made an anonymous telephone call to the Finance Ministry stating that there was a bomb in the Golfito Free Zone. Hundreds of buyers were taken by surprise and quickly evacuated.

At approximately 1000, the Finance Ministry and Free Zone offices received an anonymous telephone call and were informed that there was a bomb inside the Free Zone. Lizbeth Aguero, the Finance Ministry official who received the call, tells us about it.

[Begin recording] [Golfito reporter Gabriel Jimenez] Miss Aguero, tell us about the telephone call.

[Aguero] The telephone rang and I answered it as I normally do. Then the person on the line told me he was a member of the People's Revolutionary Movement and that he was calling to let us know that there was a bomb in one of stores in the Free Zone. He then hung up.

[Jimenez] Was it a masculine or feminine voice?

[Aguero] It was a male voice; I would guess between 30 and 35 years of age; very composed, very calm, very sure of what he said. I did not sense any nervousness: He did not stutter or laugh. He sounded very normal. [end recording]

There are 20 policemen presently taking care of the situation. Hundreds of people took advantage of yesterday's holiday to come to Golfito, go shopping today, and return to their homes in San Jose and elsewhere. All the businesses have been closed by order of the Finance Ministry to facilitate an inspection. Personnel of the Judicial Investigation Agency are here carrying out an inspection and, God willing, the situation will return to normal in one or two hours.

## El Salvador

### FMLN Commander Killed in Clash With Army

### Jesus Rojas Dies in Ambush

*PA1304195991 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Report by Salpress news agency reporter Ricardo Gomez from Mexico City]

[Text] Rebel sources have reported that 14 Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas, including Commander Jesus Rojas, who is also known as Antonio Cardenal, and several members of the military and political command of the area known as municipality 1, were killed at 0640 on 12 April in an ambush by members of the Atlacatl Battalion. The incident took place as Rojas and 18 other rebels were traveling on the road leading from Arcatao Municipality to San Jose Las Flores Jurisdiction, El Zapote Canton.

According to rebel sources, the attack was carried out by a commando infiltrator who was trained and directed by the High Command of the Atlacatl Battalion in the areas under FMLN control. According to the reports, several of the rebels, among them Commander Rojas, were finished off with a shot to their heads. Our sources also reported that two days before the attack took place, two U.S. military advisers had visited the town of Arcatao.

The rebel sources said that the FMLN General Command will issue a communique on this incident within a few hours. A civilian who was driving the vehicle also died in the attack, while five rebels, including Commander Miguel Lopez, were unharmed. The Atlacatl Battalion seized weapons, equipment, documents, and communications equipment.

On 11 April, Rojas had held a news conference with a group of approximately 20 foreign and domestic journalists in the town of Arcatao, which was under insurgent control. The Atlacatl Battalion was in the town of San Jose Las Flores on that day.

### FMLN Links U.S. to Death

*PA1404182191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1705 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas stated today that two U.S. advisers might be involved in the planning of an Army ambush of a rebel unit in Chalatenango this week, which led to the death of Antonio Cardenal, known as "Commander Jesus Rojas," and 12 other guerrillas.

Radio Venceremos, the official mouthpiece of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), broadcast a communique of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front that "directly holds the Armed Forces High Command responsible for having ordered and planned the operation carried out by troops of the Atlacatl Battalion."

Rojas, a 40-year-old commander born in Nicaragua, died on 11 April along with 12 other FMLN fighters and a civilian who was driving the vehicle in which they were traveling. They were killed in an ambush laid by the Army on a road from Arcatao to Chalatenango, in northern El Salvador.

Military sources have yet to provide any information on the action.

The FMLN said Rojas was a member of its Political-Diplomatic Commission and had participated in previous meetings with the government as part of the negotiations to end the nearly 11-year-old civil war.

According to the rebel report, the ambush was "a special operation with the purpose of hindering the negotiations being held in Mexico" since 4 April, and was carried out with "many Claymore mines, grenades, and rifle fire. After our comrades were wounded, they were murdered in cold blood with shots to the head."

It indicated that five other rebel combatants who were accompanying Rojas were able to withdraw from the area unharmed.

"It must be noted that the week prior to this operation, when the Atlacatl Battalion was in Arcatao, two U.S. advisers armed with M-16 rifles arrived in that town and in the combat zone. Therefore, they may be involved in the planning of the criminal attack against Companero Commander Jesus Rojas and his men," the FMLN stated.

Radio Venceremos announced that in the next few hours the FMLN General Command will issue a communique and it called on all combatants "to carry out and intensify our revolutionary action to lead the country to a real situation of democracy and social justice without militarism."

### Army Provides Further Details

*PA1404203591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1916 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Army reported today that the Nicaraguan Antonic Cardenal Caldera, also known as "Commander Jesus Rojas," and 12 fighting rebels died "after a clash" with government soldiers in the northern Chalatenango Department on 11 April.

Cardenal was Nicaraguan journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's nephew. Chamorro, who was murdered by Somozist gunmen in 1978, was President Violeta Chamorro's husband.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported that the clash occurred at Cerro Las Puertas in Nueva Trinidad community, Chalatenago Department.

Coprefa added that 12 additional Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels had died together with Rojas. These included "the group chief that went under the pseudonym Giovanni" and another rebel identified as "Fernando." It was also reported that "several types of weapons and important documents were confiscated" from the rebels.

The FMLN has reported that Rojas, 12 rebels, and a civilian who was driving the vehicle in which they travelled, were ambushed on the Arcatao-Chalatenango road by soldiers from the "Atlacatl" Battalion.

The Coprefa communique pointed out that Cardenal, 40 years of age, attended the university in Nicaragua and "went to El Salvador in mid-1979 after the communist victory in Nicaragua, accompanying more than 400 Farabundo Marti terrorists to be trained in all types of warfare." [passage omitted]

### Rebels Reportedly Ready To Negotiate Cease-Fire

*PA1304035891 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2049 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran guerrilla "commanders, officers, and fighters" stated today that they are willing to negotiate a cease-fire with the Salvadoran Army "under honorable conditions" for the two contending forces.

Radio Venceremos, official voice of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), broadcast a communique signed by 12 guerrilla commands, distributed throughout 12 of El Salvador's 14 departments, and supported by their forces, stating that they will "abide by" the agreements signed in Mexico City.

Delegations of the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN today completed the ninth consecutive day of negotiations in Mexico City, sponsored by the OAS, to end more than a decade of fighting that has caused more than 70,000 deaths.

The rebel station emphasized that, "with the same firmness with which we wage the war, we are willing to achieve peace and end the armed struggle under honorable conditions for the two military forces (Army and guerrilla), so that our 'army' may keep its weapons and geographic positions."

The communique stated that "the FMLN commanders, officers, and fighters" give "their full support to the negotiating commission and the guerrilla commanders' commission" that is participating in the negotiations, reasserting their obedience to the rebel political leadership.

The FMLN forces "are willing to fully abide by the resolutions approved in the negotiations," the station added, reasserting the guerrilla forces' decision to "obey" the orders issued from their "general command."

The rebels stated that the operations carried out by the Army since last week in several points of the country "will not change (the dialogue) situation."

During the talks, termed as decisive by political groups, the government and the FMLN are discussing the possibility of achieving a cease-fire before 30 May, if they reach an agreement concerning the Armed Forces and constitutional reforms, and if the country's authorities recognize zones that the rebels claim as their own.

The FMLN has stated that it "controls" more than 30 of the 260 municipalities in El Salvador's 14 departments.

Deputy Security Minister Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano stated today that the rebels maintain "zones of sporadic persistence," but not areas under their control.

## Cristiani Terms Current Peace Talks 'Fruitful'

*PA1304175291 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Report by Antonio Mineros]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said tonight that the peace negotiations that are taking place in Mexico are at a crucial stage. He added that there has been significant progress over the past week on the three topics currently under discussion:

[Begin Cristiani recording] In our opinion, this is as crucial as any other. We must not, however, forget that it is a complex and difficult process. I feel that although our expectations are being met in the sense that the process has advanced, people should always be patient and calm and trust that we are working to attain peace, which is the aspiration of the Salvadoran people. [end recording]

The president said that, for the time being, the negotiations in Mexico City are proceeding on the right path, adding that both delegations are engaged in an in-depth discussion of three topics. Cristiani said that although the talks are at a crucial stage, there has been significant progress in bringing our country closer to attaining peace:

[Begin Cristiani recording] In general terms, I believe that the first week of work has been fruitful, but obviously not all obstacles have been overcome. This process will resume on 15 April because a recess was called for the weekend.

The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] claim that the government is creating obstacles by refusing to discuss Article 248 is completely false because the government's position is to discuss the amendments; that is, we are willing to discuss the amendments based on political agreements on these topics.

If that were the goal, I believe that we would be taking even firmer and more secure steps in this direction. The FMLN has always characterized itself by violating the secrecy agreements somewhat and blaming the government for everything that happens.

I personally believe that the government's position is a good and flexible position. We are willing to analyze the topics with as much positiveness as possible, and to try to—and we hope that this will be the case—achieve something at this meeting. It is difficult to predict whether something will be achieved, but I pray to God that this is the case. [end recording]

President Cristiani made these statements after opening the new building of the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development, Fusades. The ceremony was attended by the diplomatic corps in this country, some government ministers, and special guests.

## FMLN Commander Discusses Talks, Cease-Fire

*PA1504015791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Apr (NOTIMEX)— The cease-fire in El Salvador must be achieved under a "compensation sufficiently significant for the guerrillas to abandon their armed struggle," Commander Manuel Melgar, known as Rogelio Guerra, has said in Mexico City.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) gained power and recognition thanks to the armed struggle, and that is why it will not renounce it without obtaining something in return, Guerra said in an interview with NOTIMEX.

On 4 April, the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas began peace negotiations in Mexico City. On 13 April, they called a recess and the meetings will resume on 16 April. The San Vincente Front commander, who is participating the negotiations for the first time, explained that no agreement has yet been reached.

He commented that the negotiations are characterized by "back and forth" dynamics, meaning that the United Nations receives the proposals from both delegations and incorportates them into a working document.

He warned the separate agreements cannot be concluded because both sides have made the prior commitment to approve only complete packages and not partial agreements. He added that "we cannot establish isolated points of discussion, much less concerning constitutional reform, unless we do not adopt general agreements, which is what is happening with Article 284 of the Constitution."

Guerra noted that, despite agreements and differences, the FMLN will not renounce its request to amend Article 248. It calls for revisions in the paragraph requiring that constitutional amendments must be ratified by two legislative assemblies.

Rogelio, as he is known at the battle front, said the most difficult point of amending the constitutions is the way is the means of implementation—a problem compounded by the pressures on the Alfredo Cristiani government from the country's interior. "During this historic meeting the idea is not to cause any of the negotiating sides to cave in, but to find a face-saving political solution in which neither side appears defeated," he noted. "To propose a new military solution in El Salvador, whether conducted by the guerrillas or the government, will only bring more bloodshed," the guerrilla leader added.

He also stated that it is difficult to reach substantive agreements at the negotiating table and to assure that neither side gains what it failed to win during more than 10 years of war. "Although new FMLN people are participating in this session, we will know in the next several days whether there exists the possibility of

reaching specific agreements," he stated. Rogelio announced that on 16 April the negotiations over "very specific negotiating points," will be resumed. Nothing that entails "either a surrender or a disadvantage in the field of struggle" will be signed, he added. Commenting on the nature of the FMLN, he said that it is sociopolitical movement that extends beyond its military role. The armed struggle plays a decisive role in the correlation of forces within this context, the commander asserted. He added that the cease-fire must allow the FMLN to freely conduct political activities in El Salvador. "What good is the cease-fire if our comrades conducting political work in the country's interior will be killed," he stated. "If we were to guarantee the cease-fire, the government must give guarantees that other forms of struggle will be tolerated; otherwise, we would be signing our own destruction," he added.

Rogelio Guerra stressed that the cease-fire must be implemented not because one is weak or defeated. He added that the FMLN proved itself as a viable military force and has enough weapons to continue its military activities.

### 'Army for Democracy' Communique Views Talks

*PA1204173991 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Communique issued by "all the military commands in all the National Army for Democracy military zones in 12 departments," in El Salvador on 11 April]

[Text] Concerning the negotiations that are currently taking place in Mexico City, the commanders, officers, and fighters of the National Army for Democracy [END] hereby announce:

1. The END's total support for the negotiations commission of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the commission of the military commanders of our army who are participating in the negotiations, reaffirming our army's obedience to the FMLN political leadership and our willingness to comply fully with the resolutions that will be reached during the negotiations.

2. We reaffirm that just as strongly as we wage war, we are determined to make peace and put an end to the armed clashes under honorable conditions for both military forces, so that our army will keep its weapons and geographic positions, respecting all measures and forms of the people's organization that have come up as a result of the war in the areas under our control. In this manner, once we have reached political agreements during the negotiations, we will be able to achieve truly democratic changes with the participation of all political forces—including the FMLN—and the reunification of all Salvadorans, as well as a lasting peace with justice.

3. The operations that the Armed Forces are carrying out as of the beginning of the Mexico meeting against all of our positions are desperate efforts and cannot change the situation. Likewise, they constitute provocations that force our army to defend itself and give a military response.

4. We know that attaining peace is not easy, and that there are reactionary forces that insist on intensifying and continuing the war and sufferings of our people to maintain their powers and privileges. These forces, after 10 years, stubbornly continue waiting for the FMLN's weakening, dreaming about its annihilation and hoping this will happen to eliminate any political opposition to the regime. These forces will be held responsible for how long it takes to end the war .

5. We feel that an important contribution to the negotiating process and to attaining peace in El Salvador would be the total suspension of the U.S. Government's military aid to the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces. In that regard, we ask the U.S. people to give all their support so that the U.S. Congress and Government will take positive steps in that direction.

6. We declare ourselves in a great battle for peace. We will defend what we have accomplished so far. Peace and democracy are at stake. Toward attaining and defending those goals, we reaffirm that we are willing to give our lives fighting and rejecting again the attacks of those who are opposed to peace.

El Salvador, 11 April 1991.
All the military commands in all the END military zones in 12 departments:
Santa Ana Northern Zone Command
Santa Ana Southern Zone Command
Chalatenango Eastern Zone Command
Chalatenango Central Zone Command
Chalatenango Western Zone Command
Guazapa Hill, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Zone Command
Guazapa Hill, Guayabal, San Salvador Zone Command
Cinquera, Tenancingo, Cabanas, Cuscatlan Zone Command
San Vicente Northern Zone Command
Villa Victoria, Cabanas Zone Command
Tecoluca, San Vicente Zone Command
Chinchontepec Volcano, San Vicente Zone Command
San Vicente Coastal Zone Command
La Paz, Nonualco Northern Zone Command
San Salvador Volcano Zone Command
San Salvador Northern Zone Command
San Salvador and La Libertad Southern Zone Command
Morazan Northern Zone Command
La Union Northern Zone Command
San Miguel Northern Zone Command
Cerro Cacahuatique, Rio Seco, Morazan Command
Cerro El Tigre, Usulutan, San Miguel Command
San Agustin Tres Calles, Usulutan Zone Command
Usulutan Coastal Zone Command
Jucuaran, Usulutan Zone Command
Usulutan Northern Zone Command
Command of Urban Commandos in the city of San Miguel
Command of Urban Commandos in the city of Santa Ana

Command of Urban Commandos in the city of San Salvador

### Radio Venceremos Reviews Progress in Peace Talks

*PA1304144591 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Unattributed station commentary: "The Negotiations: Going Full Steam Ahead"]

[Text] Everyone felt that the negotiations which began last week in Mexico City were the mother of all negotiations. Never before had any negotiations held such expectations. Representatives from all the political sectors agreed that there is real hope of attaining peace on an acceptably short-term basis. However, in contrast to this optimism, radical right-wing groups have turned up pointing their poisonous guns at any person who presents a position aimed at reaching an agreement that could alter the outdated oligarchical system. In addition, an inflexible, hardened, and intolerant Cristiani has appeared on the stage of this campaign.

However, are these facts signs that everything has gone down the drain, and that nothing will be gained at the meeting in Mexico? Does this mean that Cristiani made a mistake, believing that new conditions prevailed which would allow progress to be made in the negotiations? We truly do not believe so. This weeping and gnashing of teeth that we are currently witnessing is simply because today, as opposed to other meetings, negotiations are being held in earnest. We have reached a decisive crossroads that provokes these infuriated reactions from that reduced powerful group which has always been opposed to any changes in the nation.

It is true that men play an important role in these crucial situations and that their attitude can contribute or not contribute to our nation's march along new roads of peaceful coexistence. In 1975 and 1976 the impoverished peasants demanded land and Colonel Molina, together with a group of persons, tried to modernize the nation by implementing agrarian reform. However, the reform did not have enough support and the small oligarchy set back the project. At the end of the 1970's, the political sectors and people's movements demanded democracy and justice, and a certain sector of the Armed Forces saw this as a just demand that had to be supported. Then the same radical group returned, and when Monsignor Romero was murdered by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's henchmen, many did not have the courage to be consistent with the historical Armed Forces Proclamation of 1979.

Now the whole nation is demanding peace, but it is Cristiani who must play his role. At this crucial time we must ask: Will Cristiani—this businessman of moderate appearance, currently the president—have the courage not to turn back? One thing is clear. The local and international forces, all of which are in favor of peace and changes in the nation, will be a determining factor, and in the end more powerful than the radical right wing's weak voices that oppose peace.

### Deputy Minister: No Ceding of Land to Rebels

*PA1304194591 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Deputy Presidency Minister Ernesto Altschul said this morning that the government does not plan to negotiate the occupation or division of national territory with the guerrillas, as certain sectors of the country believe.

As for the territory issue, Altshul said that the government cannot cede territory to the insurgency. This cannot be negotiated either, he said, because the people themselves, in electing President Cristiani, entrusted to him administrative control over the entire country. He added that at no time has the president said that this is under negotiation, but rather that there is a need to establish delimited geographical areas for the guerrillas that would be verified by the United Nations while a definitive peace is negotiated:

[Begin Altschul recording] The strategy or goal is to establish a geographical area for the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] that would be under UN control, thus enabling us to implement a suspension of the armed confrontation. However, we would never, ever cede territory, not one inch of the country. [end recording]

Altschul said that he is cautiously optimistic about the achievements that could be made at the negotiating table because the FMLN has not only waged a struggle with arms, but through the use of disinformation and the mobilization of the masses. As an example of the latter point, he underscored the occupation of land that the peasants carried out lately:

[Begin Altschul recording] This is part of the overall plan that I told you about. This is part of a strategy, let us say, that has several aspects. The military aspect is one of them, but the mobilization of the masses, as the FMLN calls it, is a very important factor at this time. They are seeking provocations. They are seeking to create situations that would enable them to accuse the government of being repressive.

The president of the Republic has said that we will not allow certain specific groups to alter the national order at a time when the country cannot afford this. He said that occupations and so on will be punished according to the law. [end recording]

The deputy presidency minister described as obsolete and out of place coup d'etat claims by opposition politicians and unionists. Actions like this are no longer supported by any civilized country in the world, the official added.

## Deputy Security Minister Denies Coup Rumors

*PA1304021091 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Deputy Public Security Minister Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano this morning denied that the Armed Forces seek to stage a coup d'etat, because this would be a step backward for the nation precisely when following the path to democracy. Daniel Lopez has the report.

[Begin Recording] [Lopez] Deputy Public Security Minister Col. Inocente Orlando Montano has stated that the Armed Forces are not willing to participate in activities the goal of which is to stage a coup against President Alfredo Cristiani's government. The high-ranking military officer claimed that to foster a coup at this time would be highly negative move for the nation and that the military as an institution rejects any action intended to alter the established order. Col. Montano noted that coup accusations made by the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] and political leaders are only intended to create confusion to destabilize the government.

[Montano] I do not agree with the UNTS. These people are always trying to destabilize the government and provoke uncertainty that at times only creates confusion and at other times incriminates people who really have no stake in the issue at all. In the past, the Armed Forces have promoted coups d'etat, but I want to tell you, with full knowledge of the facts, that the Armed Forces have no interest whatsoever in participating in any such activity. It is the position of the Armed Forces that this action would have a very negative effect on the nation as we try to recover or bolster a budding, though shaky democracy that is taking firm steps forward. A coup d'etat would be the most negative occurrence that could happen here.

[Lopez] Meanwhile, Col. Montana said that for the military as an institution, the reforms of Article 248 of the Constitution—promoted by the different sectors in the political arena—violate the existing legal framework. The high-ranking military officer said that despite the differences that could arise due to the constitutional reform, the Armed Forces will respect any decision made by the government.

[Montano] What I want to know is why the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] wants to reform the Constitution at this stage of the game? Reform of Article 248, I believe, would violate our principle law, which is our Constitution, and would have more negative than positive effects. Nevertheless, the experts on these issues—the analysts, the constitutional gurus, the lawyers—are better informed to give an opinion on this matter. However, we, as the armed institution, are going to respect the political criteria. If the reforms must be made, we will support this decision. However, I truly want to tell the Salvadoran people that this would be a gross error in this process and that we would be truly violating the laws of our nation.

[Lopez] Likewise, Col. Montana confirmed that the security corps are investigating the kidnapping cases that were reported over the past few days by the private sector, which is demanding justice.

[Montana] We have already taken action in this regard. What has happened is that this is an activity that we cannot bring out in the open through the media, or make public whatever actions are being taken because this would only hinder the investigations. As the president and the defense minister have said, the Armed Forces and the Security Corps will get to the bottom of this and establish who are the masterminds and the perpetrators of these crimes and we are going to bring them to justice. We are truly going to make an all out effort to resolve these cases.

[Lopez] Col. Montano played down General Colin Powell's remarks which—according to international press agencies—imply that the United States could intervene militarily in El Salvador if the peace negotiations being held by the Cristiani government with the rebels in Mexico City should fail. [end recording]

## Radio Venceremos Reports FMLN-Army Clashes

*PA1404023091*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compendium of Radio Venceremos reports on military clashes between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Salavadoran Armed Forces between 28 March and 6 April.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 2 April broadcasts an eight-minute report stating that "at 0850 on 28 March, units of the National Army for Democracy dislodged a Belloso Batallion company with artillery fire in the foothills of Guazapa Hill. As a result, the enemy sustained 12 casualties, three dead and nine wounded."

The same report cites a note from Morazan Department: "1. The government and the Armed Forces High Command, taking advantage of the FMLN's goodwill to allow our people to engage in religious activities during Holy Week, ordered its battalions to carry out incursions in areas under our control; 2. On 29 March, Arce Battalion troops carried out an operation in the cantons of San Bartolo, El Maguey, El Llano, (Hacienda Sincalsiquc), and Concepcion Corozal in the area of Cacahuatique; 3. The aforementioned Army units have terrorized and threatened civilians of these communities; 4. We denounce this violation by the Armed Forces, which deprived the people of calm and freedom during the Holy Week; 5. Through such repressive and warmongering policies, the government and the Armed Forces High Command are demonstrating little good will toward a negotiated political solution to the conflict."

The same report adds that on "1 April, beginning at 1100, units of the National Army for Democracy clashed with Atonal Battalion troops in Joya Ancha Canton,

Santa Elena, Usulutan. The clash has lasted into the afternoon and two enemy casualties have been confirmed."

Radio Venceremos at 0000 GMT on 4 April carries a two-minute report stating that "on 3 April at 1300 National Army for Democracy snipers fired on the 1st Infantry Brigade, near Los Ramirez, San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department and inflicted one casualty on the enemy. On 2 April, at 0630, our forces detonated homemade bombs near La Crucita and Las Lajitas Cantons, Chilanga, Morazan Department. On 2 April, at 1600, our units attacked Monterrosa Battalion troops of the 3d Infantry Brigade near Los Villalobos Hillock, Chinameca, San Miguel Department. The enemy fled in disarray."

Radio Venceremos at 0000 GMT on 5 April carries a 10-minute report on military actions from 3 to 5 April. The report states that at 2300 on 3 April the National Army for Democracy (END) launched an attack on Cacahuatique Battalion troops in El Tablon Hill, Villa El Rosario Jurisdiction, Morazan Department. It notes that no casualties were inflicted, because "the enemy fled in disarray."

Radio Venceremos states that at 0750 on 4 April, END members ambushed "an enemy unit south of Rio Torola." The END inflicted six casualties "on the antidemocratic Cacahuatique Battalion troops" during the encounter. It also notes that "on 3 April, END forces inflicted two casualties on antidemocratic troops of Military Detachment No. 1 in El Caballete Hill, San Jose Las Flores Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department." END sniper fire "claimed another two casualties" on the same troops in La Bola Hill, Chalatenango Department. Between 1200 and 1300 on 3 April, "END forces launched an attack on Atlacatl Battalion troops in Los Alvarez village, Nueva Trinidad Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department," inflicting three casualties on enemy troops.

The same Radio Venceremos report states that at 0630 on 4 April END forces "inflicted two more casualties on Military Detachment No. 1 in El Caballete Hill." It also notes that "our forces destroyed one M-203 rifle that was converted into an M-79 rifle." The report adds that at 1730 on 3 April, END forces "engaged Atlacatl Battalion troops in El Pepeto, Arcatao Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department inflicting one casualty." It notes that enemy troops "have disrespected the territories under FMLN control, therefore forces will continue to attack them."

Citing Modesto Ramirez Central Front, Radio Venceremos claims that: "From 28 March to 3 April, the antidemocratic Armed Forces have sustained 72 casualties in Chalatenango Department." It adds that: "During this time, the rebel forces have captured 10 prisoners of war in Chalatenango Department." Moreover, the report declares "the deployment of 17 Companies of the Atlacatl Battalion, Military Detachment No. 1, and the 4th Infantry Brigade, in areas under FMLN control, to be an act of political provocation against the FMLN, particularly against the backdrop of the ongoing peace talks between the FMLN and the government."

The same report states that at 1600 on 3 April, FMLN forces engaged the enemy in Cacahotera Jurisdiction, Morazan Department, forcing it "to flee in disarray." No casualties were reported. At 1900 on 3 April "END harassed Army troops and conducted propaganda activities in Nube Hill, Corinto Jurisdiction, Morazan Department." It concludes that at 0700 on 4 April, END snipers launched an attack on the enemy unit in San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department, "inflicting two casualties on the troops of gorilla Elena Fuentes."

Radio Venceremos at 0000 GMT on 6 April broadcasts a five-minute report saying that "the END inflicted 13 casualties on the antidemocratic Armed Forces during the past 24 hours." The report states that, at 0730 on 5 April, the END forces inflicted two casualties on the Finance Police in the town of Villa Victoria, Cabanas Department, killing one policeman and wounding another.

According to Radio Venceremos, at 1600 on 4 April, END elements wounded one soldier of the 15 September Battalion in La Barca and San Simon Cantons, Mercedes Umana Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. The report continues that, at 1000 on 4 April, END forces inflicted one casualty on Navy troops in (Gualchimaca) Canton, El Transito Jurisdiction, San Miguel Department. The report concludes by saying that during the night of 4 April "eight electricity towers were sabotaged by END sappers in (El Paso de la Comprension) Canton, Ciudad Arce, La Libertad Department," and one pylon was sabotaged by urban commandos between the main road and Avenue "A" in Centro America neighborhood, San Salvador.

### Additional Battle Reports

*PA1404200491*

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of Radio Venceremos reports on battles between the Armed Forces and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) that have been reported between 7 and 13 April:

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 9 April, in network with (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Chalatenango, reports "on an important military maneuver carried out in the past few hours in Chalatenango Department." The report says that on 6 April after five hours of combat, FMLN forces "inflicted 45 casualties on troops of Military Detachment No. 1 and the 4th Brigade, including two corporals and one sergeant." The report adds that the rebel forces seized one M-16 rifle and lost one companero in the maneuver.

Radio Venceremos, still in network with Radio Farabundo Marti, continues reporting several FMLN actions: During clashes from 0900 to 1800 on 7 April, FMLN units "killed one and wounded nine members of the Atlacatl Battalion in Loma Larga, near San Jose Las Flores and Llano Verde." In another action "at 2330 on 7 April, members of the National Army for Democracy [END] attacked a position of the Atlacatl Battalion in San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango, killing four and wounding five enemies and seizing three M-16 rifles, one M- 203 rifle, one M-14 rifle, ammunition, one communications radio, 11 knapsacks, and other military supplies." The announcer then says that "respecting the Geneva agreements, the FMLN has permitted the evacuation by the International Red Cross Committee of the dead and wounded members of the Atlacatl Battalion in San Jose Las Flores."

Radio Venceremos continues its battle reports after breaking the network link with Radio Farabundo Marti. The announcer says that "the Armed Forces have shown that they do not want peace at a time when negotiations are taking place in Mexico City," adding that "on 5 April the Arce Battalion and troops of the Domingo Monterrosa Command of the 3d Infantry Brigade began an offensive operation in territories under FMLN control in northern San Miguel Department." The announcer then says: "The Armed Forces are currently conducting offensive operations against our territories in Cerro El Tigre, Usulutan Department, and northern San Miguel Department, Chalatenango, Guazapa Hill, and Santa Ana. In reply to these offensive operations by the Armed Forces against our territories, FMLN units today occupied the town of Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department," where at 1700 END forces has control of the National Telecommunications Administration building, the mayor's office, and the market, while urban commmandos attacked the National Police.

Another Radio Venceremos report says that "on 7 April END forces inflicted five casualties on troops of the Atlacatl Battalion." In addition, also on 7 April and within the framework of operations carried out by the Belloso Battalion and the 1st Infantry Brigade, the END inflicted seven casualties on the antidemocratic Armed Forces during clashes in San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department.

Radio Venceremos then reports that "there have been clashes with army troops conducting offensive operations against territories under our control." The report says that "a maneuver was carried out today against a company of the Infantes de Marina Battalion in Miramar and El Planon, Concepcion Batres, Usulutan Department, inflicting approximately 50 casualties." In addition, "the FMLN captured three soldiers, including a corporal, and seized a large amount of war materiel."

Radio Venceremos then reports that "the antidemocratic forces had sustained 186 casualties during the first eight days of April in various military actions between END forces and Army troops," adding that "these casualties include three sergeants, four corporals, one patrol chief, and one section chief; we also captured 11 soldiers, seized 29 rifles, two PRC-77 military communications radios, 30 knapsacks, 13,200 cartridges, and other war materiel." The summary ends by saying that "END sappers sabotaged at least eight electrical towers."

Radio Venceremos also reports that "one person was killed and nine seriously injured as a result of bombing carried out by Air Force planes against the civilian population in El Planon Village, Concepcion Batres jurisdiction, Usulutan Department, where many houses were destroyed as a result of the bombing."

Radio Venceremos at 0000 GMT on 12 April carries a three-minute report on a clash on 10 April between FMLN rebels and the 9th Company of the Cobra Battalion of the 3d Military Detachment. The report states that the clash began at 0915 in Las Pinas hamlet, Copetillo canton, Santa Rosa De Lima Jurisdiction, La Union Department, and continued in the Safras canton, 2 km south of Santa Rosa De Lima, until 1520. The report states that "16 enemy casualties were confirmed, six dead and 10 wounded, including one corporal killed and one lieutenant and one sergeant wounded." The report concluded by saying that two rebels were killed during the clash.

During the same broadcast, Radio Venceremos carries a two-minute report on other clashes. The report states that FMLN troops attacked the 1st Infantry Brigade in La Aldea canton, San Jose Guayabal jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department, on 10 April at 0900. It says further that "during that attack our forces inflicted five casualties on the enemy without suffering any casualties."

The same report states that on the same day at 1030, "END troops ambushed troops of the Belloso Battalion in El Salitre and inflicted four casualties."

The report concludes by stating that END forces sabotaged five primary-line electrical towers in El LLanon canton, Jucuapa Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

Radio Venceremos at 0000 GMT on 13 April carries four minutes of battle reports. A report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front states that clashes held in Guazapa hill on 10 April between END troops and Belloso Battalion troops "produced 12 casualties, three dead and nine wounded, which include a lieutenant and a sergeant." The report states that the END troops suffered no casualties.

Another report states that on "12 April END troops clashed with Army troops in San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango Department, and inflicted two casualties on the enemy."

The next report says that, on the same day, the Atlacatl Battalion suffered two casualties "when they entered a mine field in El Gavilan hill in San Jose De Las Flores."

Another report states that END troops "sabotaged two electric towers on the 68-km marker on the north main road in Chalatenango Department on 12 April."

The last report concludes by saying that on 12 April the 1st Military Detachment suffered one casualty "after clashing with END troops at 1315 in Los Ortices, Las Minas jurisdiction."

## Guatemala

### President Serrano on Government, Guerrilla Talks

#### Wants Discreet Talks

*PA1304025491 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, president of the National Reconciliation Comission, and UN observer Francesc Vendrell are to meet on Monday, 15 April, with URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] representatives to establish the date for the talks between the government and the guerrillas. Yesterday President Jorge Serrano refrained from mentioning the place of the meeting between Msgr. Quezada Toruno and the URNG delegates.

Serrano added that the government feels that talks with the URNG must be held with the utmost discretion and without public displays, which is what the URNG is proposing.

[Begin Serrano recording] [Words indistinct] I will tell you why. At a public meeting, they begin to act for the television cameras and the news media, and we really do not want to [words indistinct] and we do not want to play with the lives being lost every day. We want to work in earnest. We want to work [words indistinct] with unnecessary publicity stunts to find the measures that are best for Guatemalans. If what they want is to stage a publicity ploy, we are certainly not going to participate. That does not mean that at the end of each meeting that Msgr. Quezada Toruno cannot be asked to report on the results of the meeting. We now have some experience in this matter.

We reached an agreement in Oslo. I do not know why the guerrilla groups are now grasping at straws. Sometimes I think they do not really want to achieve peace. Nevertheless, we reached an agreement in Oslo. We said: We will hold an initial news conference and we will not attack ourselves during the news conference. We will simply state our willingness to participate in the talks.

What happened then? Not a single call from the media was heeded—either by the rebels or by us—while we worked. The agreement was publicized after the meeting was over. There was no interference and we were able to understand each other—as one Guatemalan to another and from heart to heart—while solving the country's problems. Exactly the same thing happened when we went to El Escorial. We agreed to leave out the media, which respected the decision, and the meeting at El Escorial had positive results.

Naturally, we believe that the media should be informed. Of course it must be informed! How could it not be informed? However, the situation should not be manipulated. Messrs. journalists, you are willing to cooperate in the achievement of peace, but you must accept the fact that many people in the country want to extend the conflict which has affected the country for 30 years. There are radical people on either side, and there is no reason for us to give them the opportunity to use small things to cause big problems. [end recording]

President Serrano ruled out any possibility of discussing a reduction of the Armed Forces during its talks with the guerrilla groups, which might start in the near future. The issue of the country's demilitarization, which necessarily involves the Army's reduction, is one of the basic issues that the URNG intends to discuss. The Guatemalan Army has approximately 43,000 members and a support force of approximately 500,000 peasants who have been organized within the civilian self-defense patrols. The guerrilla groups have between 1,000 and 1,200 fighters, according to Army officers' estimates.

[Begin recording] [Serrano] We have defended an absolutely clear thesis. First, the Army is an institution that is fully regulated in the Constitution of the Republic. Second, the issue of the rash arms buildup in Central America is being handled as it should be, within the framework of a Central American commission for control and verification of weapons. We are participating in the commission and agreements will be reached. Guatemala is willing to abide by those agreements, just like the other Central American countries who participate in the commission are willing to abide by those agreements.

In other words, the guerrilla groups' proposals refer to the counterinsurgency mechanisms that are obviously part of an overall military strategy. We are definitely willing to discuss the issue and reach solutions. We have no need for counterinsurgency operations if there are no guerrilla groups, but we need the counterinsurgency mechanisms as long as the guerrilla groups exist. The mechanisms that are duly regulated in the Constitution and the laws must be respected—until the laws are changed.

[Reporter] Counterinsurgency operations will be eliminated once the guerrilla groups cease to exist. Resources destined to fight the subversives will be used for development programs. Now then, is there [words indistinct]?

[Serrano] I repeat. We are participating in the commission. We cannot adopt arbitrary decisions due to geopolitical reasons. We have neighboring armies that are extremely large. We cannot make unilateral decisions. Our Army is relatively small compared with the Salvadoran Army, the Honduran Army, or the Nicaraguan Army. [end recording]

### URNG Calls Plan 'Positive'

*PA1304173291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Apr (DPA)—The Guatemalan guerrillas today issued a communique in which they reaffirm their intention to hold talks with the government and state that "the negotiation process must lead to complete demilitarization and democratization of the country coupled with justice and social development."

The General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), which represents this Central American country's guerrilla movement, forwarded a document from Mexico in which it describes President Jorge Serrano's "total peace" plan as "positive."

At a meeting between the government and guerrillas, which will be held on 15 April in an as-yet-undetermined country, the URNG will submit a negotiation proposal "allowing the drafting of an agenda and procedural agreement on the negotiations that would be signed by the two parties in conflict."

In its communique, the URNG states "once more" its disposition and political resolve to establish with the government and Army the foundations for a solution to the domestic armed conflict via political means.

"No agreement will be possible until a serious negotiation process, based on the proposals submitted by the two parties via mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno and in the presence of UN observer Francese Vendrell, is promptly initiated without any prior condition, advantage, or imposition," the rebels point out.

The document, signed by "Commanders" Rolando Moran, Pablo Monsanto, Gaspar Illom, and Carlos Gonzalez, underscores that the president's proposal "reflects an intention to find a political solution, and we believe that this is positive."

The URNG shares the wish to attain peace as soon as possible, "but the signing of the final document can only be the result of political agreements, practical measures, and verification leading to the establishment of genuine and trustworthy bases to continue on the path of peace and guarantee that the peace process will have a successful outcome."

The guerrilla leaders, in accepting to discuss the peace plan with Serrano, ask that the meetings be private "but not secret," because they believe that "the Guatemalan people and international community must be informed about this process."

As for the conditions suspending war actions, the URNG points out that repression, violation of human rights, and counterinsurgent actions are continuing, although ever since October they have been requesting that they be suspended.

"Despite the government's statements and propaganda, repression, which causes bloodshed and increases pain and suffering, continues to reign in our fatherland," the rebel communique points out.

They say that the negotiations cannot overlook this reality. The impunity with which the Army security services and state repressive apparatus are acting must not only be stopped, but also disappear, they add.

Serrano's peace proposal received the support of various Guatemalan sectors, the EEC, the United States, and Central America and opened up the possibility of ending a 30-year-old conflict that, according to humanitarian organizations, has claimed more than 100,000 lives.

### Defense Minister Backs President

*PA1304184691 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 9 Apr 91 p 2*

[Excerpt] "We, as an armed institution, are willing to endorse the peace process that is being promoted by the president of the Republic," Defense Minister General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia has said.

He further pointed out: "Any attempts that are made to attain peace for Guatemalans and that may lead to an atmosphere of progress and accomplishment for our compatriots must be first and foremost in the minds and the understanding of all of us."

Referring to the political and economic changes demanded by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity before peace can occur, Gen. Mendoza Garcia said that "we must first establish a framework for peace so that, within this atmosphere, our people's other aspirations may also be fulfilled."

Gen. Mendoza Garcia said that the Army is in the best disposition to back the decision of President Serrano Elias to seek peace with the insurgents, and will abide by the agreements adopted by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

## Nicaragua

### Three Arrested for Selling Arms to El Salvador

*PA1404174491 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1621 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Text] Managua, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE)— The General Command of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] reported today that it had arrested three Army officers because they were members of a gunrunning "network" to El Salvador. The report added that four Central American citizens participated in this activity with the Nicaraguan officers.

The EPS revealed the gunrunning after it had arrested Captain Francisco Javier Benavides and Lieutenants Ulises Aguirre Acuna and Carlos Gomez Espinoza. The

report did not include details as to the date the officers were arrested or the quantity and type of weapons confiscated.

The EPS communique indicated that the four Central American citizens had left the country last year. They were identified, however, as Alexander Cruz Leyton (Costa Rican), Roberto Martinez Flores (Salvadoran), and two Hondurans whose identities are still being investigated. The EPS is also investigating the occupations of the foreigners involved in the gunrunning activities.

The EPS Judge Advocate's Office continues to investigate the case to determine the responsibility of Javier Benavides, who was in charge of the border section, and Gomez Espinoza, who was the first officer in that section.

On 14 February, the EPS judge advocate sentenced four former EPS officers to three years and six months in jail for selling 28 Soviet ground-to-air missiles to the Salvadoran guerrillas in October 1990.

### Chamorro Comments on Upcoming U.S. Trip, Debt

*PA1404165591 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Apr 91 p 12*

[Text] Asked what she will request from U.S. President George Bush when she meets with him next week, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro replied: "I am not taking any proposals with me. This will be an official visit, whereby I will seek solutions for the country and the friendship between the U.S. and Nicaraguan people."

Chamorro denied she will request that the United States forgive Nicaragua's debt, which amounts to approximately $300 million.

Referring to the demand at the International Court of Justice, Chamorro said: "I have sent a proposal to the National Assembly and we hope it will be approved soon." She pointed out that the world's highest court of justice has specified "no amount" for the indemnization that the U.S. Government should pay the Nicaraguan people for the damage inflicted through the war of aggression.

Chamorro will travel to Washington tomorrow.

### Humberto Ortega Denies Role in Bermudez Murder

*PA1304020591*

[Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1300 GMT on 2 April carries a two-minute report on Nicaraguan Army Chief General Humberto Ortega's reaction to statements published in the 28 March edition of THE WASHINGTON TIMES, which charge him with the murder of former Nicaraguan rebel leader Enrique Bermudez. Ortega described the allegation as a "malicious lie by U.S. intelligence sources to discredit the Army chief and President Violeta Chamorro's government." Ortega said: "I have never killed anyone, not even on the battlefield, nor have I ever given orders to murder anyone." Gen. Ortega said that although not at all levels of the U.S. Government, relations between Nicaragua and the United States are very good, and the authorities in Washington respect Mrs. Chamorro and her government.

The same newscast also carries a six-minute report on the investigation into Bermudez' death that is being conducted by a special commission formed by order of President Chamorro. The special commission feels that the evidence provided by the police is incomplete. Felipe Sanchez, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's personal representative in the commission and its chairman, said that "police and forensic reports are contradictory because the former indicates that the murder was perpetrated at point-blank range and the latter says that it was from a considerable distance." One of the commission's functions is to suggest actions whereby the murder can be solved and it has decided to suggest that President Chamorro request international help to solve the crime. Sanchez said: "At this point we believe that the police investigation that has been carried out lacks reliable evidence and information for us to get to the core of the matter."

### Humberto Ortega Views Administration's Progress

*PA1304020391 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Apr 91 pp 1, 12*

[Report by Ernesto Aburto M.]

[Text] General Humberto Ortega has told the Mexico City newspaper EL SOL that the process of change in Nicaragua "is on the correct course." He said that the Chamorro government has rapidly achieved two objectives that the [Sandinist] revolution had drawn up.

One is total peace in the country with the disarmament of the contras, who have rejoined civilian life, and the other is reconciliation, which is essential to create confidence among the international community so as to obtain the foreign support the country needs for its economic recovery.

In a lengthy interview, which was granted to newspaper director Mario Vasquez Rana and which EL SOL published in its 6 and 7 April editions, Ortega said better conditions exist now to face Nicaragua's drastic economic situation.

He said that despite "differing views on some points and issues about which one does not basically agree," in general, he agrees with the harsh economic adjustment measures. He admitted that the plan leaves some sectors truly unprotected but that "the important thing is to implement a plan" which "will work."

In his remarks to EL SOL, Gen. Ortega said he feels that the United States is keeping its promise of providing financial support to the Chamorro government but he

said the United States "must speed up its disbursements" and contribute so that "other governments will provide aid to Nicaragua at this time." Prior to stating this, he noted that Reagan had been ideological and that Bush is pragmatic.

He stated that this year the Army has been reduced from 96,000 to 28,000 men "in the framework of its doctrine on national sovereignty and defense." He said that when talking with the president it was affirmed that not only the Central American armies should disappear, but also all the others in the world, starting with the United States and the USSR.

He said that this is a dream and a beautiful vision, however, and it is correct that in Nicaragua there should be "a reasonable, nonrepressive armed force, in keeping with the economic needs of the country; an uncorrupt armed force that will be close to the people and that will have a great sense of dignity, patriotism, and professionalism."

Gen. Ortega replied positively when asked whether the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is ready to return to power through democratic means and whether it will continue working through those means.

In this regard, Ortega said that the Sandinist Congress in July will provide an opportunity to prove this. He said that in political matters, he has had differences with his brother, Daniel, who is "unquestionably the country's main political leader and the one who heads the party. I have even had disagreements with him in public. It has not been difficult to have them and indeed, we have had them on several occasions."

Humberto Ortega said he agrees with Daniel's slogan that self-critical unity increases unity. He said that before 2,000 officers, the FSLN National Directorate, and his own brother, he maintained that "the important thing for revolutionaries is to understand the revolution in each moment and to understand that the revolution is not a dogma."

He said that "the revolutionary thing at this time is to do what we are doing: correctly develop a democratic regime and defend peace in that regime. I also said that if in 1996, the FSLN reaches power through an alternation of power, which is the system that must be increasingly strengthened because in my view it must be continued in Nicaragua over the next 40 or 50 years, it would be a strategic error at that time to try to behave as we did prior to the elections and to make of this Army an armed wing of the party, something that I am definitely not going to permit. I believe the Army no longer belongs to the Sandinist Directorate. This does not mean it does not belong to the revolution, because for me, the revolution goes beyond Sandinism."

Humberto Ortega said: Clearly, this is what it means to be a revolutionary; "I have told the Sandinists that the Army will never be the armed wing of the FSLN or any political party. It is the armed wing of the Constitution and the Nicaraguan state".

Asked his opinion about Cuba's future, Ortega warned that it is very difficult to give an opinion because one does not want to interfere with every person's legitimate right to self-determination. Nevertheless, he pointed out clear differences between the Sandinist and Cuban revolutions, something which does not mean that one is more legitimate than the other.

"In Nicaragua," he said, "the majority of the people are not anti-Cuban or anticommunist. Nevertheless, they like the model of a revolution that permits a number of practices of individual freedoms and democracy, which do not exist in Cuba."

## Panama

### PDC Vows To Attack Endara, Increase Pressure

*PA1204164691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1524 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Panama City, 12 Apr (DPA)— The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] announced today that it will attack President Guillermo Endara "where it hurts most," increasing pressure "to bring out in the open the truth" about the charges involving the president in the establishment of corporations owned by alleged narcotics traffickers.

A document destined for the PDC leaders, which DPA obtained, says that although the charges about "money laundering that upset President Endara so much were not our initiative," but that of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), there is an "obligation to look thoroughly into this issue."

Based on a DEA report, PRD Pesident Gerardo Gonzalez disclosed last week that Endara's law firm had created several corporations for Salvador Magluta and Augusto Falcon, who are Cuban-born U.S. narcotics traffickers.

"There is evidently a lot more behind this issue concerning President Endara," the PDC document points out. The PDC was dropped from the government alliance this week.

The document of the party that is now in the opposition notes that the PDC legislators will undertake "rectifications" concerning the support they gave to the appointment of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz and the approval of Law 25, which allowed the dismissal of over 300 officials who participated in a national strike last December.

The document adds: We are going to show Endara a little "muscle" so he will ask for the resignation of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, will achieve a just balance between payment of the foreign debt and the social debt, and will put an end to the dimissals of the PDC members holding public posts that are not political appointments.

### Endara 'Doubts' PDC Will Obstruct Government

*PA1304030891 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Apr 91 p 1-A*

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara doubts very much that the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), which has been in the opposition since 8 April, will attempt to block government efforts in the Legislative Assembly.

"I do not believe that the Christian Democrats will block patriotic and beneficial projects. I doubt it very much," Endara said, responding to a question concerning the possibility that PDC deputies may obstruct presidential efforts in reprisal for their ministers' being excluded from the cabinet.

Endara said that the Christian Democrats are "Panamanian patriots" who love their country, and he rejected the possibility that there could be "political mayhem at the assembly because this is a democracy and to a certain extent we will benefit from a more or less evenly divided assembly, where interesting debates will be staged."

"I, sincerely, do not share the idea that the Christian Democrats will obstruct the government. They will establish their opposition, but I do not believe that they will hinder projects just for the sake of hindering them," the president added.

Endara has also said that he has warned all of the members of his government that they must become accustomed to First Vice President Ricardo Arias' being "the head of the leading opposition force in the country."

### PDC Claims Government Receiving Excess Funds

*PA1304020291 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] The Christian Democratic [PDC] parliamentary faction has presented to the Legislative Assembly a draft bill on the 13th month bonus and the administrative career law. Both are fitting and would be beneficial, but the question that has emerged from the opposition is why the PDC is now promoting bills that it did not promote in the past when it was a member of the ruling alliance.

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] We are now certain that during the first quarter the government collected $50 million over and above the amount budgeted. There is no reason to believe that during the remaining quarters our income will decrease considerably. A budget was established and we must adhere to it. We have $50 million in excess of the amount budgeted. I wonder if the government is attempting to put this money away as it did in 1990 when, by year's end, it had failed to spend $300 million of the budgeted funds and instead made out-of-budget payments to the National Bank and Social Security.

We were informed of the $50 million surplus exactly three days ago. We do not behave demagogically when there is new information. This is new information provided by a competent authority, in this case a spokesman for the Finance and Treasury Ministry, speaking before a competent authority—the Budget Commission. With this new information we can think of new initiatives. Had we not received this new information, we would not have made the proposal. [end recording]

### PRD Committee Denounces 'Political Persecution'

*PA1304035091 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Apr 91 pp 11, 12*

[Text] The new National Executive Committee of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] held its first meeting with the new members of the National Directorate's Political Commission on 3 April. The meeting was attended by commission members from the various provinces and party organizations. The members of the Political Commission were elected, during the meeting of the National Directorate held on 9 March, to represent their respective provinces and organizations.

The Political Commission approved a proposal presented by the secretary general to convene the party's national congress. The tentative date has been set for March 1992. The calendar of events and activities in preparation for the congress, during which the party will hold internal elections to name all of the delegates to the national congress, was also approved.

The Political Commission strongly denounced the political persecution that the Endara government has unleashed throughout the country since the 20 December 1989 U.S. invasion. The Political Commission also protested and reported the arrest, for purely political reasons, of Legislator Elias Castillo, as well as the arrest of many members of the party, especially Benjamin Colamarcos, whose only "crime" was to obey the Constitution and pick up his weapon to defend the Republic against the U.S. invasion.

Lastly, the Political Commission requested that all party members, especially those in the legislative bloc, demand respect for the human rights of the party members who remain incarcerated for purely political reasons.

### PRD Leader Seen Entering Palace Several Times

*PA1304163391 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Apr 91 p1A*

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Area residents have reported that Ernesto Perez Balladares, secretary general of the pro-Noriega Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], has visited the presidential palace on at least two occasions in recent days, in the midst of insistent rumors about a possible pact between the government and his party.

On the morning of 8 April, Perez Balladares drove Antonio Dominguez, an adviser of President Guillermo Endara, to the presidential palace before Endara expelled the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] members from the cabinet.

A local television station interviewed Dominguez on the matter, and he replied that he was standing someplace when Perez Balladares drove by, and, since they know each other, Perez Balladares took him to the presidential palace. At that time, the PRD leader did not go inside.

According to an area resident who asked to remain anonymous, at 2300 on that same day Perez Balladares was seen entering the presidential palace.

The source added that Perez Balladares also returned on 9 April, after Endara met with General Colin Powell and after the new ministers attended their first Cabinet Council meeting.

After Endara expelled the PDC from his cabinet, PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon said that "now Endara has chosen to rule with the PRD."

Endara stated, however, that there is no alliance with the PRD, which supported General Manuel Antonio Noriega until his ouster as a result of the 1989 U.S. invasion.

Perez Balladares said three days ago that the PDC's departure will foster national reconciliation, and he did not rule out the possibility of an alliance with the government.

## Five Ambassadors Resign After Alliance Breakup

*PA1204142091 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Apr 91 p 11, 416*

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] Government sources have reported that the Panamanian ambassadors to the United States, the EEC, the Holy See, Nicaragua, and El Salvador resigned their posts yesterday following the expulsion of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] from the government.

Acting Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino said that the first to resign was Eduardo Vallarino, ambassador to the United States, who will be replaced by Jaime Ford Boyd, ambassador to Spain. Jorge Pacifico Adames, president (on leave) of the Arnulfist Party, has been appointed ambassador to Spain.

A high-ranking member of the PDC, now in opposition, said that Roberto Aleman, ambassador to the EEC; Rudy Stempel, ambassador to the Holy See; Miriam Bermudez, ambassador to Nicaragua; and Luis Eduardo Varela Clement, ambassador to El Salvador, have also resigned.

## Linares Says Safe-Conducts Must Be Issued

*PA1304041491 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1742 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said that it is necessary to issue safe-conducts to Panamanian citizens who have sought refuge at various embassies in Panama.

[Begin Linares recording] We have made up our minds to settle this matter almost immediately. We cannot postpone it any longer. Regardless of the decision, we will end up issuing safe-conducts. Whether these people travel to the countries that have granted them asylum or any other countries, they would still require a safe-conduct to leave national territory. The only way we would not grant them safe-conducts would be for us to say: We will not settle the problem. We will not issue safe-conducts. They will stay in the embassies for an indefinite period. [end recording]

Linares said that the necessary consultations are being made with the embassies where the refugees are situated and that this is why no date has been set for issuing the safe-conducts.

In addition, asked about his absence during the yesterday's ceremony to sign the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, Linares said that this does not mean he disagrees with the treaty.

[Begin Linares recording] I was not here because, as I told you, a meeting had been convened in Costa Rica and all of the foreign ministers were to be there. My absence from the Costa Rica meeting would have been misinterpreted because, as I said, the meeting had to do with the involvement of several countries that have been quite detached from Central America. The meeting was intended to bring several of these countries closer to Central America. [end recording]

## Source Cited on Alleged Cuban Spy at Presidency

*PA1204202991 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Apr 91 p 12*

[By Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Angel Vega, a former sergeant with the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], who currently works as a close aide to Menalco Solis, director of the Council for Public Security and National Defense [Conasepuden], is allegedly a spy in a Cuban espionage network.

This information was leaked to this reporter by a government source on condition that his name not be disclosed. During the times of the dictatorship, Angel Vega worked as secretary of former Major Felipe Camargo, who is currently under arrest. Camargo was the liaison between former dictator Noriega and the Cuban intelligence services.

In addition, Vega was discharged from the FDP in 1976 for "improper" behavior. He was able to return to the armed institution a year later, however, given the influence of then Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Vega was trained by the Cuban intelligence services and, as a member of the FDP, he was responsible for liaison with the Latin American guerrilla movements that operated out of Panama.

In addition, Vega, a collaborator of the intelligence service office headed by Solis, was tasked with working in the "Hisangeo" during the final days of the dictatorship. The "Hisangeo" was an office of political analysis that came to be known among the dictatorship allies as "El Manguito."

It seems that the presence of Vega in the Presidency is due to the fact that during the civic struggle [against Noriega] he met an Arnulfist leader who had been jailed for struggling for democracy. Later, after the invasion, Vega received the support of the Arnulfist, who gave him protection because he was being sought by the U.S. troops.

Vega was discharged from the Public Force [FP] in January 1990, but that same Arnulfist leader got him a job at the Presidency of the Republic.

The source said that, given the close ties between the secretary of Felipe Camargo and Cuban intelligence in the times of Noriega, Vega may still have some contacts with Cuban intelligence. It should be pointed out that Vega also worked for some time as secretary of former Major Cleto Hernandez, who was a G-2 executive and is currently under arrest.

The intelligence office headed by Menalco Solis, the controversial finance and treasury minister in the government of [former President] Nicolas Ardito Barletta, has also hired, in addition to Vega, other elements of the defunct FDP.

## Ex-Panamenist Party Members Form New Movement

*PA1404160391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 8 Apr 91 p 2*

[Text] A group of former members of the defunct Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) have formed a political group called National Movement of Panamenist Unity [Movimiento Nacional de Unidad Panamenista—MNUP] and have requested of President Guillermo Endara a "political reconsideration of the glorious members who, with their blood, advanced the patriotic and nationalist struggles of the fatherland's foremost servant, Dr. Arnulfo Arias Madrid."

The document, addressed to President Endara, was signed by MNUP Directors Demostenes Vega Mendez, Emilio Royo Linares, Raul Guerra, Emiliano Aguilar, Tomas Dutary, Gilberto Farrugia, and Waldo Arjona.

The MNUP communique follows:

The Panamenists' current experience is marked by a rejection of their contribution to the state's administration as a means of helping the unemployed and poorest people of the country, who, during the years of political struggle led by the late Dr. Arnulfo Arias Madrid, placed their hopes in the Panamenists' social redemption. It is our moral duty to request of Your Excellency a proud movement in favor of a political reconciliation of the glorious members who, with their blood, advanced the patriotic and nationalist struggles of the fatherland's foremost servant.

In this way, and only in this way, will the popular forces who constitute a national majority march to the beat of progress in peace, freedom, and abundance for the benefit of our future as a sovereign and democratic country.

## Argentina

### Duhalde Implicated in Customs Irregularities

*PY1204144691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Apr 91 p 1*

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Former Ezeiza Airport Customs official Ibrahim al-Ibrahim, currently under trial in a case of drug money laundering, told Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria that Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde and other state officials regularly asked him to use his influence to enter "bags and suitcases" into the country by-passing Customs officers, according to an article published in this week's edition of the Gente magazine.

The magazine has published an alleged text of Al-Ibrahim's testimony before Servini de Cubria, in which the ex-official claims that "I frequently received requests from the presidential office, from both Houses of Congress and from the Interior Ministry to make documents come out faster or to let bags through Customs."

Al-Ibrahim pointed out that "Duhalde was the one who came most frequently with such requests for his aides Hector Lenci and Alberto Bujia, and there were also frequent requests from Lower House Speaker Alberto Pierri, Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa and Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo."

When asked for the reasons for having been appointed a Customs official (especially since his command of Spanish was not even good enough to testify without a translator), Al-Ibrahim answered that it was "because of the support I gave to the presidential campaign."

Al-Ibrahim, his ex-wife and current Presidential Appointments Secretary Amira Yoma, her brother Karim Yoma and ex-water resources official Mario Caserta are all named as drug money launderers in the confession of a Panamanian drug-dealer to a Spanish court, in which the repentant criminal said that the "Argentine connection" laundered money from the sale of Colombian cocaine in Europe.

In statements later in the day, Duhalde said he did not know personally Al-Ibrahim and downplayed the latter's accusations. However, it was Duhalde who appointed Al-Ibrahim at Ezeiza in 1989, while he was acting President during President Carlos Menem's first trip abroad.

### Menem Discusses Domestic Issues, European Trip

*PY1304183091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0056 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (NA)—President Carlos Menem decided tonight to keep out of the problems affecting his in-laws, saying that he does not want to make any comments before the court makes a decision. Menem also confirmed his confidence in Vice President Eduardo Duhalde.

Clearly annoyed at times, the chief of state said: "Those problems are still in the hands of the court, and the president of the nation will have no comment on the issue."

Menem confirmed that Amira Yoma "will continue on an indefinite leave of absence" from her duties. Asked about who was responsible for Ibrahim al-Ibrahim's appointment, he did not answer. He did say that when the Syrian colonel was appointed by decree as Customs official at Ezeiza Airport, "nobody (within the government) could have imagined he was mixed up in something," although at this point he also insisted that the court has still not reached a definitive decision regarding his penal responsibility.

Menem also did not want to comment on his son Carlos' harsh criticism of Vice President Duhalde, whom he called a "liar" in a communique released to the media. Menem said: "The problems between my son and Duhalde are their own; I am not going to interfere, and I reiterate that I will not comment about my family in public."

Nevertheless, Menem said that he would "put his hands in the fire" for his son and Duhalde, whom he called a "friend, colleague, and someone I regard highly." Menem added: "What Duhalde may say, or the reaction his comments may cause, have nothing to do with the president of the nation."

Menem seemed to openly contradict Duhalde, however, when he emphatically denied the participation of the Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking. He stressed: "Whoever says the opposite is completely mistaken."

Menem noted that the Armed Forces "will receive the same treatment" in terms of salaries as the rest of the workers and that, therefore, there are no plans for the time being for a salary adjustment for military men.

The president made these political comments, economic announcements, and exhaustively reviewed his recent visit to Germany, which he labeled "a great success," during a news conference at Government House that lasted for more than one hour.

Menem, who devoted the first half of his news conference to announcements on the economy and other topics, such as Argentina's participation in a UN peace force in the Persian Gulf, was aware that most of the questions asked by some 50 national and foreign journalists focused on the Yoma case, their relatives, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

"Why do you not ask more important questions?" he said more than once, looking obviously annoyed, although he showed a bit of humor when asked whether his son had not disobeyed by calling Duhalde a liar. Menem smiled and answered: "If he has disobeyed, he will go to prison."

Menem refused to answer questions about drug trafficking and defended himself by quoting the U.S. DEA. "It is the DEA, not us, which maintains that the drug trafficking problem is not so serious in Argentina."

He also [words indistinct] the organization by stating that there "is practically no laundering of dollars" in Argentina, but reiterated that there are some laundering centers in Uruguay, the United States, and other European countries, according to the DEA report.

He was asked again about Amira Yoma's situation and Duhalde's request that she resign. He answered: "She is on a leave of absence, and she depends directly on the president of the nation."

In another passage of the repetitive dialogue about the Yoma family and drug trafficking, Menem answered that during his recent trip to Germany "nobody asked me about this because they are more concerned about the Maradona case."

Asked why Ibrahim al-Ibrahim had been arrested and then released, he repeated: "I will not answer those questions. Ask the judges about it." He promptly recalled that his government "has struggled as nobody else against corruption" and asserted that "nobody will go unpunished."

He denied that Amira Yoma's former husband carries a diplomatic passport and then asked a journalist: "Have you seen it?"

The president then ruled out both a total or partial intervention in Santa Fe Province. He also said he had not read the serious charges raised by Catamarca Deputy Angel Luque. When a journalist told him about the issue, Menem said: "He should take responsibility for his words. I am not Deputy Luque's keeper and besides, I understand that the Chamber of Deputies is analyzing his possible impeachment."

Menem said he is "pleased with the development of the economic plan and added that "it is not as some amateur politicians say [passage indistinct], we are thinking in the elections. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Menem said the government will continue the investigation into the alleged suicide of former Customs Office Director Rodolfo Echegoyen "to its final consequences." Menem questioned whether the pilot "was referring to his military comrades or to civilian" friends in his posthumous letter in which he regretted the betrayal committed by his political friends.

Once again, near the end of the news conference, a foreign journalist wanted to know about Carlos Menem, Jr., and Vice President Duhalde. "I am not going to speak about that subject, nor will any other government official do so. My family matters are not discussed in public. My son is my son and all I can say is that I would put my hands in the fire for both of them."

## Menem Views Privatization of Airlines, YPF

*PY1404233491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Apr 91 p 1*

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—The long drawn-out privatization of Aerolineas Argentinas seems at last to have been finalized, with the government agreeing yesterday to pay debts owed to the buyers.

The government is to pay the buying consortium, led by the Spanish flag-carrier Iberia, 46 million dollars for tickets sold when the company was still owned by the state. In return, Iberia and its partners are to hand over 142.6 million dollars in 1989 series Bonex external bonds.

Although 85 percent of the former state airline was supposed to be transferred to the buyers last November, the completion of the sale has been held up for months by the failure of the buying consortium to meet the payment terms established in the sale contract.

The original contract required that the consortium pay 130 million dollars in cash over a period of 10 years, deliver just over two billion dollars in Argentine foreign debt papers, and guarantee 685 million dollars in investments.

When the deadline for the completion of the payment fell due, it turned out that the consortium had failed to assemble all the foreign debt papers. It also argued that the government owed it money for revenue made from ticket sales before the airline was privatized, but which the private firm would have to supply.

The government seems to have been able to save the deal by modifying the payment terms. As well as the Bonex, the buyers have agreed to pay 800 million dollars in foreign debt certificates on May 10, and will hand over another 800 million dollars worth two months later.

It is still unclear whether the government has accepted the buyers' investment guarantees.

The deal struck yesterday was unveiled during a press conference offered by President Carlos Menem last night.

During the conference, it was also announced that the government has approved a bill to transform the state oil firm YPF [Government Oil Deposits] into a private company. The company's shares are to be sold on national and international exchanges. The privatization, which is to take effect two months after the bill is approved by Congress, also anticipates the sale of the company's distilleries and oil pipe-lines. [passage omitted]

### Cooperation Agreement Signed With Switzerland

*PY1404011691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1556 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Bern, Switzerland, 12 Apr (TELAM)—This afternoon, the Argentine and Swiss Governments signed an agreement on reciprocal promotion and protection of investments, which will be in force for 10 years. The agreement establishes equal treatment for investors in both countries; they will be able to transfer their profits to their respective countries. The agreement, which includes a preamble, 11 points and a two-page protocol, was signed this afternoon at the Federal Palace by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Swiss Public Economy Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz.

Following the signing of the agreement, the two ministers issued a political declaration in which they agreed to strengthen bilateral relations, to take the necessary actions for commercial understanding, and to create an appropriate atmosphere for the success of future investments.

Di Tella told TELAM that this agreement "shows Argentina's economic opening to the world." He said: "We have modified our system, we have lifted the barriers that existed in the past, and this agreement will now help us rejoin the international market and the developed world."

After the ceremony, Di Tella toured the neoclassical Federal Palace. All the shields of the Helvetian Confederation are depicted on the cupola of the palace, which is distinguished by its huge white marble columns. Di Tella will depart for Buenos Aires on 14 April. He will rest on 13 April since he is not scheduled to carry out any activity.

### Steel Industry Agrees To Decrease Prices

*PY1204211891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Apr 91 p 5*

[Text] The Government's deindexation efforts achieved another success yesterday, when representatives of the steel industry agreed to lower the prices of their products by 13-27 percent.

The cuts take prices back to the levels of last May, when measured in dollar terms.

The agreement follows similar price-cutting accords signed by the government and the auto, tyre and electrical goods sectors. Trade and Industry Undersecretary Juan Schiaretti said that the steel industry "is the first important economic sector to agree to a substantial reduction of prices."

The cuts in steel prices have a particular significance, given the importance of the product as an input in numerous industrial sectors. The lower price of this raw material should feed through to lower prices further down the chain of production.

Such an effect may be visible sooner rather than later, since Schiaretti is due today to meet representatives of the food industry to agree on a similar price cut. He will no doubt point out that the steel agreement will cut the price of tin-sheet, a crucial input for the food sector, by almost 15 percent.

Unlike the other deindexation agreements, yesterday's accord with steel firms does not mention any form of job guarantees. Schiaretti justified the omission on the grounds that "some steel firms are undertaking structural reforms." Meanwhile, Steel Industry Centre Vice-President Carlos Leone claimed that "industrial reactivation is the best guarantee of job security."

### Central Bank Reserves Exceed Monetary Base

*PY1204211091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Apr 91 p 5*

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] (DYN)—Central Bank reserves exceed the monetary base, which amounts to 4.82 billion dollars, by 750 million dollars, the bank reported yesterday. The Autumn Plan requires that the monetary base be backed by reserves in the bank, so as to guarantee the convertibility of the austral.

## Bolivia

### Departmental Antinarcotics Chief Found Hanged

*PY1404215091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1703 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr (EFE)—A department chief of the Bolivian antinarcotics police was found hanged after he was said to be linked to one of the largest import networks for illegal chemical products to make drugs. Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Ravasa Macagua, chief of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) in Oruro Department, was found hanged with a tie on 12 April in a house in La Paz, according to official reports published by the local press today.

The same sources indicated that the possible suicide was an act of desperation because of the "shame for his family and his institution" over his alleged link to an illegal network of chemical product traffickers.

According to Oruro Police Chief Colonel Alberto Saavedra Torres, Ravasa gave orders last week to have a truck loaded with chemicals for making cocaine escorted by two FELCN agents from the border with Chile, where the trucks originated, to the valleys of central Cochabamba Department, a major cocaine production center.

Ravasa was summoned to La Paz to answer charges of his alleged link with drug trafficking, but his body was found on 12 April in his brother's house in La Paz.

According to PRESENCIA, Ravasa, who as appointed FELCN chief in Oruro 80 days ago, was a chief in one of the largest illegal networks transporting chemical products for making cocaine.

According to the daily, the "incredible network of traffickers" has been operating for eight months. The network legally imported the chemicals from Chile through a company which has not been identified and then transported the chemicals to the Cochabamba region in the custody of antinarcotics police agents.

The discovery of the network of chemical traffickers coincides with a Latin American seminar in La Paz on the need to control the chemicals necessary for cocaine production.

Bolivia is the world's second-largest producer of coca, the raw material for making cocaine, after Peru. The DEA considers Bolivia the world's second-largest producer of cocaine, after Colombia.

### Congress Approves Law Amending Mining Code

*PY1204153391 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Apr 91 p 7*

[Excerpt] In closing the first extraordinary session of Congress yesterday, the pro-government blocs approved the Mining Code Updating Law. This new law allows foreigners to exploit natural resources along a 50-km border security strip and establishes a single tax schedule for mineral-producing companies.

The new law was rejected by the congressional blocs of the Free Bolivia Movement, the United Left, and the Conscience of the Fatherland. It was also rejected by labor sectors including the Bolivian Workers Confederation (COB) on the grounds that the law violates Article 25 of the Constitution and is detrimental to the interests of small mines and the miners working under a cooperative system.

After a heated discussion over the tax schedule, the progovernment parties reached a consensus and approved a single tax schedule for mineral-producing enterprises. It was reported that during a previous meeting between the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and blocs of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action], the MNR pledged its support for the law.

The tax schedule is spelled out in Articles 118, 119, 120, 2002, and a transitory article. It establishes that mineral-producing enterprises will make an advance payment of 2.5 percent on the value of their net sales toward their estimated profit taxes. This payment will be made at the time the metal or mineral is exported or sold within the country, in accordance with a procedure to be established in the Regulatory Decree.

The companies annual tax liability will be 30 percent on their net profit.

The law states that the companies subject to this tax schedule will also be required to pay the taxes established in Law 843.

The transitory article says that the 2.5-percent advanced profit tax on net sales will be imposed to mining enterprises that start operations after the new law is promulgated.

Mining enterprises that incorporate new concessions after the new law is promulgated will be subject to the mining tax schedule established by Article 118.

Mining enterprises that are in operation before the new law is promulgated will become subject to the new tax schedule before 1 October 1999.

Article 118 also states that existing mining enterprises will be subject to the current royalty schedule and in no case will pay less than the 2.5 percent of their net sales.

Within a 30-day period, the executive branch will issue regulations for this tax transition process, taking into account the special situation of the cooperative mining system and the need to ensure revenues for the producing departments of the country.

Tito Hoz de Vila, chairman of the Economy and Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, noted that this new tax schedule will attract more foreign capital and help to boost the revenues of the National Treasury as well as those of the regions. He also said that mining activities will thus be restructured and set on the right path again. Finally, he said that the new law will stimulate manufacturing activities based on Bolivian minerals and precious metals. [passage omitted]

### Denmark Pardons $6.5-Million Bilateral Debt

*PY1204173691 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Apr 91 p 4*

[Summary] Denmark has pardoned the Bolivian Government's $6.5-million bilateral debt. According to a report by Jaime Delgadillo, director of the Finance Committee and current chairman of the Central Bank, the negotiations with Denmark took place within the framework of the general agreements reached with the so-called Paris Club III.

Previously, France had pardoned Bolivia's $10-million debt, Belgium a $5-million debt, and the Netherlands a $7-million debt. In total, $28.5 million of Bolivia's debt has been pardoned.

## Brazil

### Congress Defeats Seven Presidential Vetoes

*PY1304034091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Apr 91 p 1*

[Text] Last night, Congress defeated seven of 13 vetoes imposed by President Fernando Collor on the law establishing a juridical code for federal civil servants. This is

the first time that vetoes imposed by President Collor have been defeated by Congress. Congress can do this with a vote of two-thirds of both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. In the Chamber of Deputies, there were 356 votes against the presidential vetoes, 10 in favor, and two abstentions. In the Senate, the presidential vetoes were defeated with 61 votes against and only one in favor.

The presidential vetoes rejected by Congress referred primarily to retirement for civil servants.

### General Comments on Military's 'Starvation Wages'

*PY1304174091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Apr 91 p 3*

[By Monica Prado]

[Text] Yesterday, one week before leaving his post, General Jonas Correa, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), voiced his harshest criticism of the military wage situation.

"Our wages are currently very low. Some men are receiving practically starvation wages." According to the general, military wages "are not even enough to guarantee our children's education."

"The military wages do not even cover our uniform expenses which, contrary to what some idiots are saying, we pay ourselves," the general complained.

According to the EMFA chief, military wages have been distorted for years because the basic wage (on top of which bonuses are calculated) makes up hardly a third of the total remuneration.

In order to correct these distortions, on 16 April Gen. Correa will present President Collor with the famous "Soldier" [Soldao], a draft bill on military remunerations. The draft bill foresees, without immediate implementation, the incorporation of bonuses to increase salaries and the application of percentages or other similar advantages given to public employees.

"When the base date arrives, our remunerations will be more realistic. The percentage increase for our current low basic wage is meager. Such an increase applied to a meager basic wage can only result in a meager salary."

The draft bill also provides benefits for retired officers; according to Gen. Correa, "it will allow an immediate 100-percent increase in pensions."

## Chile

### Army Hosts Meeting on Antiterrorism Measures

*PY1304000291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Excerpt] The meeting of Army staff officers taking place at the Army War Academy to discuss measures to prevent terrorism has been going on for over two hours. The meeting was organized by Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet, who also invited congressional leaders and members of the defense committees in both houses. Among those attending the meeting are Senate President Gabriel Valdes, Chamber of Deputies President Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo, and Sergio Onofre Jarpa, president of the Senate Defense Committee.

Jarpa, who spoke to the media, told about the meeting and said it is a substantial briefing on the appearance of terrorism in Chile and Latin America. Apparently, Jarpa said, there is a consensus on the measures that should be adopted.

[Begin Jarpa recording] I think that there is apparently a consensus of opinions on the need to create a special intelligence or information unit to analyze this problem as well as a joint command to conduct antiterrorist actions based on information obtained through previous analysis. [end recording]

Acting Interior Minister Enrique Correa, Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, and General Jorge Ballerino, a member of Pinochet's Advisory Committee, are also participating in the meeting. Thus far, Army Deputy Commander Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar and Army Intelligence Director Brigadier General Hernan Ramirez Rurangue have spoken at the meeting.

The attendees have also been given a document with recommendations and preventive measures for the personal safety of congressmen. [passage omitted]

### UDI Willing To Support Antiterrorism Plan

*PY1204202391 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] The Independent Democratic Union, UDI, has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the government measures against terrorism. This was stated by Deputy Andres Chadwick following a meeting of UDI leaders with acting Interior Minister Enrique Correa. Chadwick, who agreed to establish a political and social pact to isolate extremism, also expressed his fears regarding the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh].

Chadwick stated that it is necessary to demonstrate that the government and all political forces are united in the effort to prevent further terrorist actions in Chile.

[Begin Chadwick recording, in progress] ...unfortunately, I think it has isolated itself from the action and unity that we have reached to combat terrorist actions. Mr. Corvalan's statement really incites and supports terrorist actions. We cannot understand this and we think it is very important to isolate the PCCh as long as it does not clearly and categorically demonstrate that it is not supporting or backing terrorist actions. It should especially prove that it is not connected with the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front. [end recording]

Chadwick said the government is being slow in creating an intelligence organization, adding that this is costing the country—and especially the UDI—a considerable number of lives. Chadwick reiterated that his party wants to cooperate and join whatever initiative is proposed regarding this subject and to try to improve it in Congress.

### Carabinero Officer Views Antiterrorist Proposal

*PY1204220091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] General Rodolfo Stange has said that the creation of an antiterrorist unit between the Carabineros and the Investigative Police does not necessarily mean that it will be a joint organization.

[Begin Stange recording] It will not be a joint antiterrorist unit. We believe that it will be a general staff for coordination between the two institutions.

The Carabineros intelligence directorate, which is the organization in charge of receiving, analyzing, and channeling all information from [words indistinct] and even from citizens willing to cooperate with Carabineros, must be distinguished from OS-6, which has been a Carabineros unit for 10 years and is an antiterrorist brigade in charge of arresting individuals and taking them to the appropriate Carabineros precinct. [end recording]

As for rumors about the arrest of individuals who were involved in the murder of Senator Jaime Guzman, Stange said he has no information about that. Concerning the criminals who were arrested in Coutalco, he said Special Judge Sonia Araneda will determine whether they participated in the murder of a doctor and his wife in Rancagua.

Stange made these remarks after a ceremony at the Carabineros School to honor retired officers.

### Correa Views PCCh Stance on Antiterrorist Pact

*PY1304170891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa has expressed regret over the fact that the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has not shown its willingness to sign the antiterrorist pact, as most sectors have agreed to do.

Correa made this remark in response to questions about actions by the Lautaro movement, which has even decided to take over schools. Correa said these actions were a method of armed propaganda used by the movement to attract attention. He admitted, however, that solid progress has been made following the arrest of some top Lautaro movement leaders. Asked whether these actions could be seen as a method of recruiting followers, Correa said:

[Begin recording] [Correa] This is a propaganda campaign aimed at recruiting people. The more we repudiate their actions, and the less we hesitate to condemn them, the less success they will have in their efforts to attract and recruit people for an uncertain adventure.

We are surprised and disappointed over PCCh leader Mireya Baltra's statements that the PCCh is not willing to sign an antiterrorist pact. We deeply regret this situation. We want all political parties to firmly reject terrorism. The government and the country believe the PCCh supports this position. [end recording]

Correa then stressed the achievements of the police following a clash with members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front in Coutalco. This leads us to believe that positive measures are being taken to uncover the Lautaro Movement leaders, he said. He also recalled the charges brought by the court against members of this subversive group.

[Begin recording] [Correa] A special judge has already indicted all the members of this movement.

[Reporter] Do recent cases....

[Correa, interrupting] No, every member of the movement has been indicted. This kind of action was not taken under the previous regime. We have filed charges against the entire movement. We have asked the court to investigate the actions carried out by the Lautaro movement. All their actions must be investigated. [end recording]

Concerning the government's attitude toward terrorism, Correa said that it is acting calmly and firmly and making great efforts. People can rest assured that the police and the government have joined efforts to try to find the terrorists and to prevent and fight crime, Correa said.

### Military To Return to Former Ceremonial Position

*PY1404033091 Madrid EFE in English 0158 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Excerpt] Santiago, April 13 (EFE)—Chile's top brass has been ordered back to its pre-dictatorship position during official ceremonies, and will sit on the fourth row behind the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government, the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday [13 April].

The ministry said the new protocol was a return to traditional form before democracy in Chile was crushed by the 1973-90 military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet. During the Pinochet years, the military was at the forefront at official functions, an extension of its front-row control of all political activities. [passage omitted]

### Former Presidential Candidate Buchi Joins UDI

*PY1504034591 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 91*

[Text] Former presidential candidate Hernan Buchi joined the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] this morning because he feels that this political organization deeply believes in modernization. He also said that the government has reduced Chile's potential to become a leader in the economic and social fields.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Hernan Buchi was welcomed this morning by UDI leaders, and UDI Chairman Julio Dittborn gave Buchi his card as a UDI militant. Buchi said that the sacrifice for Chile made by Jaime Guzman made him review his decision not to belong to any political party. He also said that he chose the UDI because this party has more clearly sustained its stance on modernizing Chile and providing better opportunities for the Chilean people.

[Buchi] My greatest contribution will be to make the UDI the party of modernization, to be able to lead Chile in the 21st century.

[Reporter] Commenting on the government's work, Buchi said the government is slowly but steadily reducing Chile's potential to become a leader in the economic and social fields.

[Buchi] The government has not been able to fulfill the expectations it created. I believe this happened because of its lack of conviction and knowledge focused on coming out ahead and fulfilling the goals the government itself established. [end recording]

### Military Judge Requests Extradition of Guerrillas

*PY1404020691 Madrid EFE in English 2051 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Santiago, April 13 (EFE)—A Chilean military judge Saturday [13 April] asked the Supreme Court to seek the extradition from Spain of three leftist guerrillas who escaped from Santiago jail last year. The three, German Alfaro, Rafael Pascual and Jorge Martin, all members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front rebel group, gave a press conference in Madrid on Tuesday to coincide with the visit of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

According to the papers prepared by military judge Gen. Guido Riquelme, Alfaro is wanted for the killing of a police officer while Pascual and Martin face arms charges. Riquelme also asked the Foreign Ministry to apply to the Spanish authorities for the immediate arrest of the three.

Alfaro used the conference to deny any part in the killing of right-wing Senator Jaime Guzman, leader of the Democratic Independent Union (UDI), who was gunned down in Santiago on April 1. Police said after the killing that they suspected Alfaro of being involved in the death of Guzman, a leading adviser to the former military government of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

All three guerrillas were among a group of 49 political prisoners who escaped from Santiago jail in January 1990. Government sources said the three might be protected under the terms of the Chile-Spain extradition treaty, which bars extradition of political criminals. They were jailed under the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who handed over power to Aylwin in March 1990.

The three guerrillas said at their press conference that they had arrived in Spain in December and were under the protection of the Red Cross, albeit under police control. Alfaro said he had applied for political asylum in Spain, while the others claimed legal residency as being sons of Spanish fathers.

### Silva Cimma Comments on Aylwin Trip, Free Trade

*PY1204214691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has described President Aylwin's trip to the United Kingdom as highly favorable. He also made note of the cordial welcome they received from British authorities and their interest in investing in Chile.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] My impressions of this trip to the United Kingdom and of the meetings I have held are highly favorable and auspicious.

President Aylwin and his team were welcomed with extraordinary receptivity and sympathy. This is because these people have a very clear idea of what the Aylwin administration is doing to promote a market opening. They are not only informed about our actions to promote free trade, but also about President Aylwin's calm but firm stand on the clarification of human rights violations, which is also a very important issue for them. [end recording]

Answering a question, Silva Cimma said that the EEC views the Chilean economic and political models with sympathy.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] I would say that the United Kingdom, a country that promotes free trade, views the Chilean situation with great sympathy. Therefore, in general terms in this regard, the United Kingdom is a friend of Chile and a friend of Latin America.

The United Kingdom is willing to expand this vast free trade concept, which will have to be raised somehow at the Luxembourg meeting, and herein lies the importance of this meeting. [end recording]

After his meeting with journalists, Silva Cimma met high-ranking officials of the Socialist International residing in London.

### Socialist Party Holds First National Congress

*PY150401589l Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Text] In Temuco, the Socialist Party is holding its first national congress with the participation of more than 200 delegates from the country. The meeting is aimed at making socialism more modern, courageous, and participative.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] The congress was inaugurated on 12 April in the municipal gymnasium with the participation of high-ranking socialist leaders. Awards were given to party members with more than 35 years of party service. The party also created the Indian Affairs Department—which will have its headquarters in Temuco—to deal with the problems of ethnic minorities. The party also gave an official welcome to the former members of the Christian Left who are now the party's regional leaders.

This morning the congress began with a political report by Socialist Party President Jorge Arrate, who summarized party activities for over two hours. Arrate stated the party's categorical stance against terrorism and expressed the need to create special units to fight against it. He also called for close work with the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, municipal elections to strengthen regionalization as soon as possible, and support for the economic policies of the government, which were able to overcome the negative predictions made during the latest elections.

The important aspect of Arrate's speech was the call he made to support the presidential proposal for a national pact for peace and against terrorism. The first national congress of the Socialist Party will conclude tomorrow with a report from the various committees. [end recording]

### Democratic Socialist Party Established in Santiago

*PY1204225691 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 30 Mar 91 p 11*

[Summary] The Democratic Socialist Party [Partido Socialista Democratico—PSD] was established during a convention in Santiago yesterday. Initially, the PSD will be registered in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Metropolitan Regions. The principles of the PSD are based on "Bolivar's objectives of Latin American integration and unity, on the patriotic and antiimperialist fight, and on the social development of Chilean society as characterized by the doctrines preached by Balmaceda [Jose Manuel Balmaceda, Chilean president 1888-1891], Grove [Marmaduque Grove, member of the military junta that took power in 1925], and Gonzalez [Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, Chilean president 1946-1952]."

The new party's declaration of principles is based on a document drafted by Juan Carlos Moraga, Miguel Pizarro, and Ricardo Fernandez. Its aim is to unite all Chileans "through the use of several forms of organization and struggle," and to organize, "through the PSD strategic plan, a national revolution that will unite all Chileans against cheap, low politics and administrative corruption."

The party will be officially registered at the Electoral Service in the next few days; at that time the party leaders will hold a news conference on the steps the party intends to take in the immediate future.

## Colombia

### Armed Forces Announce Antiterrorist Drive

*PA1304034291 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Apr 91 pp 1A, 12A*

[Report by Edgar Tellez]

[Text] The Armed Forces stated yesterday that there are 585 critical points in the country that could be the targets of terrorist attacks by guerrillas.

These places are key points through which oil and mining products pass, as well as a number of essential links in the energy system, the road network, and the communications infrastructure.

This list of vulnerable places, which are now priorities in the vigilance efforts of the Armed Forces, was revealed by top leaders of the Army, the police, and the Administrative Department of Security [DAS], who explained the details of how the 58 billion pesos from the so-called war tax will be spent.

Consequently, the effort will be directed primarily at countering subversive actions in areas where the guerrillas operate. For this reason, it has fallen to the Army and the police to manage 40 billion pesos or 70 percent of the resources allocated by the government on 11 February.

According to the report presented to the media yesterday, six oil enterprises have 166 critical points that will be protected by the public force in the application of government measures that seek to eliminate the subversives' presence in those areas.

From now on and for the first time, 78 bridges located in strategic areas of the country's road network will be guarded by private security agencies. The Defense Ministry will manage the 1.12 billion pesos allocated for this purpose.

"We should not have more than 2,000 soldiers permanently available to stand guard at those bridges when they could be much more effective in combat areas," a military source said.

With military actions in areas where these oil enterprises operate and with sophisticated intelligence networks, the Armed Forces will try to avert attacks on those 585 places.

The new operational plan was presented yesterday by the Armed Forces commander, General Luis Eduardo Roca Maichel, who said: "These efforts are intended to stop aggression and restore the tranquility that Colombia so much demands by dealing properly with the individuals who insist on settling conflicts by force of arms."

General Manuel Jose Bonnet Locarno, head of the military intelligence services, said yesterday that the state has at present four basic enemies, the guerrillas—whom he thinks are the oldest and most dangerous enemy—drug trafficking and drug-related terrorism, organized crime, and common crime.

Bonnet said that, on President Cesar Gaviria's instructions, a deep restructuring of the Armed Forces Intelligence Department includes the creation of 34 rural and urban intelligence networks, as well as two river, five airport, and four seaport networks.

General Bonnet said: "This will result in an extremely strong and powerful infrastructure of 44 networks that cover the entire territory and the country's commercial and industrial activities."

According to Bonnet, intelligence tasks are essential to anticipating the actions of the groups that destabilize the nation. "These networks will make it possible to plan our operations and improve our ability to anticipate the probable direction of this threat."

Bonnet added that intelligence will become a military specialty, where the handling of information will become traditional. "We want to have a tradition of intelligence in the Armed Forces."

He said that the military intelligence services will receive 7.5 billion pesos for this year's operations. Of this amount, 1.12 billion pesos will be used to pay rewards and the rest will be used to finance the installation of the 44 intelligence networks.

In addition, General Juan Salcedo Lora, chief of operations of the Armed Forces' General Command, reported that the plan to control the guerrillas' terrorist actions was coordinated with the mines, public works, and communications ministries.

The Army will receive a larger amount, 29.207 billion pesos, for the creation of 10 counterinsurgency companies—six for the oil region and four for the energy sector—in Pereira, Villavicencio, Sogamoso, Neiva, Popayan, Santa Marta, Monteria, Valledupar, and Aguachica, and for the activation of two mobile brigades.

The Navy, which will create two counterinsurgency companies and a special platoon, which will operate along the oil pipeline, will receive 2.938 billion pesos.

The police will receive 14.055 billion pesos, which will be spent in recruiting and training 5,784 new policemen, for the creation of three anti-extortion and anti-kidnapping units, and to pay informers.

Police Planning Director General Humberto Camero said that it is up to the police to patrol 104 critical points in the oil-producing region, 199 in the electric energy system, 42 in the mining sector, 103 in the communications network, and 37 in the road network.

To complement the work of the 5,784 men in uniform who will be dispatched to these areas, the police will purchase 70 trucks, 30 off-road vehicles, 80 motorcycles, 5,784 rifles, and 180 portable radios.

The counterinsurgency activities will be supported by the Colombian Air Force [FAC], which will soon have 60 helicopters available on a daily basis to go anywhere in the country. "Normally, FAC had 27-percent availability. This capacity has now risen to 80 percent," Salcedo said. He added that 12 transport planes will also be available around the clock.

Salcedo said that FAC will soon receive four C-130 Hercules and four AC-47 Phantom aircraft. Within the investment plan of the war tax, FAC will is slated to receive 2.609 billion pesos.

## Mass Graves of 400 Alleged Rebels Found

*PA1204215691*

[Editorial report] Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 5 April carries a one-minute report by special correspondent Eduardo Carrillo, from La Uribe, Meta Department, which states that a Commission of the Legal Medicine Institute and the Criminal Investigation Directorate is working to "identify the 400 corpses of alleged guerrillas found by military authorities in a mountainous region in La Uribe Municipality, where the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] Higher Secretariat has operated."

Citing 7th Brigade Commander General Norberto Adrada Cordoba, the report indicates that 40 graves containing 10 corpses each have been found and that "it seems that the majority of the guerrillas were executed by their comrades." Excavation work has been undertaken to locate more graves, the report says, adding that forensic experts feel the bodies could have been buried several months ago.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 5 April carries a two-minute recorded interview by Vilma Tarasona in La Uribe with an unidentified man who "claims he was a member of 'Tirofijo's' [FARC Commander Manuel Marulanda Velez] personal guard, stayed with FARC's top leadership for 12 years, and was part of the execution squad for five years."

During the interview, the former rebel states that executions are an "everyday occurrence" in the FARC camps. He then describes some of the reasons why guerrillas have been killed, such as spying for the Army or failing to

carry out orders. The former rebel also describes how FARC's war council has tried guerrillas who failed to perform as expected.

## Paraguay

### President Calls For Revision of Itaipu Treaty

*PY1404032691 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 13 Apr 91 p 13*

[By special correspondents Celso Chavez and Aristides Mascareno from Minga Guazu District, Alto Parana Department]

[Excerpt] For the first time, President Andres Rodriguez said here yesterday that it was necessary to renegotiate the Itaipu Treaty, which was signed almost 20 years ago. He did not stress the specific points our country would review with Brazil. The president also announced that on 6 May 1991, he, along with his counterpart from the neighboring nation, Fernando Collor de Mello, would dedicate the binational power plant.

Talking first about the issue of revision of the Itaipu Treaty, Rodriguez pointed out that this issue will surely be discussed by the Itaipu administrative and executive councils as soon as the project is officially completed by the end of this month.

The chief executive said: "I believe that after completion of a project of this nature, it is necessary to revise the agreement, which was drawn up, so to speak, almost 20 years ago."

Probably aware of growing concern here about the need to renegotiate the binational treaty, Brazilian media colleagues insisted on this point and asked Rodriguez about the specific points Paraguay would review with the government of Fernando Collor de Mello. Our chief executive answered that the revision must be based on existing agreements.

President Rodriguez noted that one must try not to depart from the agreements mentioned in the treaty in order to "prevent being bad shareholders or partners." "Therefore, they must be thoroughly examined—what can be revised and what points can be discussed," he said.

Moving on, Rodriguez described as a "historic landmark" between the two nations the upcoming inauguration and the goodwill of two brotherly nations that could complete a significant and important project. He added that he does not believe there is any project similar to Itaipu and he agrees with what the Brazilian people say, claiming that "it is the world's greatest."

President Rodriguez also announced that the inauguration ceremony for the huge power plant will take place on 6 May 1991 with the participation of his Brazilian counterpart, Fernando Collor de Mello. [passage omitted]

### Human Rights Report Praises Political Transition

*PY1304222291 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Apr 91 p 13*

[Text] The Latin American Human Rights Association, Aldhu, believes that the democratic transition process in Paraguay "has developed quickly."

The Aldhu secretary general stated this yesterday when he issued the official Aldhu report on the political situation in Paraguay. Aldhu Secretary General Juan de Dios Parra will submit this report to the foreign minister.

During a working breakfast yesterday morning at the Guarani Hotel, the Chilean leader said that since the change in government, "respect for public freedoms" has been consolidated in Paraguay. He said that "an increasing prevalence of respect for the right to free speech, to hold meetings, to make demands, and to establish unions, social, and labor associations can be witnessed." He added that the participation of citizens in the current political and electoral campaigns in the country is also a positive sign.

The report, which will be submitted to the government, includes a study of various aspects of the democratic transition process such as the situation of civil, political, economic, social, and electoral rights; of the courts and the penal system; and of the educational system.

During a meeting with journalists who were invited to the event, Parra also noted the predominant role the armed forces are fulfilling in the transition process. He said: "We must note that the armed forces are gradually returning to their own duties within a democratic system and that they are subordinate to the government." Regarding the armed forces, he added that "this process is exempt from the traumas and tensions that have characterized other processes in the Southern Cone."

He also stressed "the lack of violence or terrorist outbreaks in this process" and the "regularization of political party activities, the increasing participation of citizens from different social levels, and the overall framework of governability guaranteed by the opposition's responsible behavior."

### Minister Says Report Truthful

*PY1304222691 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 13 Apr 91 p 10*

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken has described as truthful the report that was submitted to him yesterday at the Foreign Ministry by members of the Latin American Human Rights Association [Aldhu].

Regarding the criticisms made in the report, the foreign minister said these are not negative, but objective criticisms that can help us correct the situation. [passage omitted]

### ANR Chairman Addresses Members on Primaries

*PY1204211791 Asuncion HOY in Spanish*
*12 Apr 91 pp 8, 9*

[Text] In a message to ANR [National Republic Association] Colorado Party members, acting ANR chairman Luis Maria Argana yesterday promised to support "massively and in a united way" the candidates that emerge as the winners in the 14 April municipal primaries. He also hinted at "those who are trying to destroy the party." He delivered his speech from the ANR session room in the presence of 18 members of the party's executive board, including Eugenio Sanabria Cantero, Leopoldo Ostertag [both ANR executive board members], and [ANR Vice President] Blas Riquelme.

Argana, who leads the Colorado Autonomous Traditionalist faction, urged his fellow party members "to exercise your right to vote and thus discharge your civic responsibility. I also want to announce that the Colorado Party will support massively and in a united way those candidates obtaining the majority of the votes from our party members in the 14 April primary election."

Argana said: "Irrespective of the factions that they represent, the winners of this election will obtain the unanimous support of the powerful ANR following and will eventually be elected to municipal offices." He added: "The decision of our party members must be obeyed and respected. It should be understood that anyone failing to do so will be breaking our internal laws. The party will give its full support to the winners of these primaries."

Argana added: "At this time, when some people are threatening to jeopardize the party's future, there are more than 1 million Colorado members who will in no way go against their party." He thus apparently referred to some party members who will not vote for Colorado candidates. He noted: "These 1 million voters will give our candidates a high position in the election."

Argana said: "The banner bequeathed to us by the hero of Ytororo [General Bernardino Caballero, founder of the Colorado Party], whose name and achievements we cherish, will not fall from our hands. Let those trying to seize this banner from us come. Those who seek to destroy the Colorado movement will have to bury their knives in our chests."

Although Argana spoke as acting ANR chairman, he admitted to reporters that "only members of the Traditionalist faction were invited." Thus, he said, no one can say that the members of the Democratic Alliance faction and the Seifartists [members of the faction led by Education Minister Angel Roberto Seifart] walked out on him, because they were not invited.

Before delivering his message, Argana—who was chief justice during the previous government—asked (ANR vice presidents) Blas N. Riquelme and Edgar Ynsfran to sit beside him. Both Ynsfran and Riquelme accepted the invitation. At the end of the speech, Riquelme made brief remarks to the press before hastily leaving the room. It should be noted that Senator Carlos Romero Pereira, who had attended Argana's speeches on previous occasions, was not present this time.

### Democratic Alliance Criticizes ANR Leader

*PY1304004291 Asuncion HOY in Spanish*
*12 Apr 91 p 9*

[Text] The Democratic Alliance faction of the ANR [National Republican Association, Colorado Party] yesterday released an unexpected message criticizing the recent statement by ANR leader Juan Ramon Chavez. The message says that the 14 April primary elections to elect party municipal candidates "are an opportunity to express a definite no to prepotency, patronage, and manipulation of the people's will."

The message, which was read by Luis Becker Genes, Democratic Alliance coordinator, says: "It is appropriate to recall that implementation of the direct vote is an achievement of the democratic sector of the Colorado Party in the historic congressional debates to reform the electoral code."

The message says the party "has a brilliant opportunity to get rid of some serious vices that the dictatorship that was overthrown on 3 February 1989 imposed on the party as a lifestyle. It is an opportunity to express a definite no to prepotency, patronage, and manipulation of the people's will. It is also an opportunity to proclaim a hopeful yes for respect, freedom, and democracy; in other words, a clear yes for the will of the people."

The message adds: "We have heard several messages in relation to the upcoming party elections. Some of them—such as the one delivered by the president of the Republic—are clearly aimed at holding mature and democratic elections. Unfortunately, other messages—such as the one delivered by Chavez—have revived antidemocratic ideology and sectorial language."

After calling on Colorado Party members to go to the polls in great numbers to vote, the Democratic Alliance says the result of the 14 April party elections will not involve only municipal matters, but "will go beyond that. The choice of the party members in the polls will have a decisive impact on the future of the project to democratize the party and the nation. Therefore, we invite all party members in the Republic to vote for candidates of the Democratic Alliance of the democratic Colorado Party."

### Seifart: Elections Will Defeat Plotters

*PY1304020891 Asuncion HOY in Spanish*
*12 Apr 91 p 8*

[Text] In his address to Colorado Party members last night, Angel Roberto Seifart [leader of the Orthodox Renovators faction of the Colorado Traditionalist Movement and Education and Worship minister] said:

"Renovator traditionalism is convinced that the elections to be held next Sunday, 14 April, will mark the defeat of those who plot against the transition process." He repudiated the "slanderous" campaign against "renovators" launched by "well-known sellouts and timorous people who are determined to blame others for their own vices." Unlike Argana [Luis Maria Argana, National Republic Association acting chairman], who did not mention [Paraguayan President] Rodriguez, Seifart did so, stating: "Rodriguez and the Armed Forces guarantee the irreversible character of the process."

Angel Roberto Seifart, of the Renovator Traditionalism faction, stated in his speech that "aside from the temporary excitement typical of an electoral process and the predictions of those who are against democracy, we are convinced that the Sunday elections will mark the defeat of those who plot against the transition process and will mean another step towards the Colorado Party's full and fruitful legitimacy in power."

Seifart went on to say: "We repudiate the slanderous campaign against renovator traditionalism and other sectors of our party launched by well-known sellouts and timorous people who are determined to blame others for their own vices bringing discredit to them before the democratic belief of the Colorado people."

Unlike Arganas' speech, which did not even mention Rodriguez, Seifart stated: "The president of the Republic, General Andres Rodriguez, in his 1 April address to the National Congress, noted that the government and the Armed Forces of the nation will guarantee the irreversible character of the democratic process as a resolute sign of loyalty to our party's principles, which has been attested to with deeds and not mere words since 3 February 1989. Thus, the peasants, workers, and students, by fully exercising their political sovereignty, will be responsible for unveiling the presumption of those who uselessly seek to tarnish the 3 February 1989 liberator sword with the aim of marring its Colorado authenticity in an unprecedented contradiction that unveils their duplicity to the sacred Colorado cause."

Seifart, in his speech read from his "command post" last night, said it is up to the people to determine "where the essence and substance of the Colorado Party lies—whether in traditionalist, selfish, subservient, and retrograde leadership or in renovator traditionalism, where the political and moral credit is based on a background of struggle, sacrifice, and civilian courage in defense of the Colorado Party."

He went on to say: "The wisdom of the people will judge whether the authenticity of the Colorado Party is among the hypocrites, subservients, and pusillanimous or where the integrity of the leaders is measured by the coherence of thought, speech, and action to carry out republican ideals." In referring to the Sunday elections, Seifart said that the "renovators" want the establishment of honest and dynamic municipal administrations and the election of councilmen willing to renew and modernize the Colorado Party." [closing quotation mark as published]

### Hungarian Mission Proposes Opening Trade Office

*PY1204205391 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 12 Apr 91 p 16*

[All names as published]

[Text] The Hungarian mission that is visiting Paraguay has proposed opening trade offices to promote cooperation between Paraguay and Hungary in the fields of trade, and science and technology.

According to official sources, these offices must have an adequate number of employees in Asuncion and Budapest because the two countries do not have diplomatic relations. The offices will be used for negotiating trade transactions.

This information was made public after the mission met with Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken in his office. The mission is headed by Bela Szentmary, director general of the Hungarian Ministry of International Economic Relations. Trade Counselor to Paraguay Bela Szilagyi and Trade Counselor Miklos Anyai were also there.

The Hungarian mission has also held "talks" with high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Industry and Trade Ministry. They agreed on the "need to establish solid bases, such as the trade offices, to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, and science and technology."

Following the meeting with the foreign minister, Bela Szentmary said: "I handed him a draft agreement for the establishment of trade offices while the appropriate transactions are being negotiated for the establishment of diplomatic relations."

Szentmary said: "The new commitment is very positive" although he could not set any date for the fulfillment of the proposal. Later he confirmed what had been reported that "Hungary will probably consider the purchase of traditional products such as soybean seed, cotton fiber, wool, and some nontraditional export products, provided that prices are competitive."

He said: "We want to sell our pharmaceutical products, hospital equipment, medical instruments, pilot plants for the education sector, and land and railway transport equipment. In the agricultural sector, we can offer many products, from seeds to semi-sophisticated technology."

## Venezuela

### Foreign Minister Resigns; To Seek Party Post

*PA1204161291 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1520 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Caracas, 12 Apr (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reynaldo Figueredo, a close aide to President

Carlos Andres Perez, resigned from his post today, according to a spokesman from the Foreign Ministry in Caracas.

A government spokesman said President Perez accepted the resignation.

According to press reports, Figueredo, a politician linked to the reformist wing of the ruling Democratic Action [AD] party and a close Perez aide, wants to participate more actively in internal party politics.

Figueredo might seek the position of AD secretary for the State (province) of Miranda, which has the largest population in the country. Venezuelan law forbids members of the government to occupy party posts.

Figueredo's last action as foreign minister will be on Monday, when he will inaugurate the Institute of Higher Diplomatic Studies.

The foreign minister's resignation could generate new changes in the Perez administration. The president has been criticized for his harsh economic adjustment plan. Possible replacements for Figueredo include Education Minister Gustavo Rossen.

### Student Protests Reported in Several Cities

*PA1204171591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] The situation in Caracas, Guarenas, Los Teques, and other cities is very tense because student groups have taken to the streets to protest police measures ordered by the executive branch and the high cost of living. The worst violence took place in the Caricua neighbhorhood and near the Luis Caballero Mejias Polytechnical University Institute in La Yaguara, where students tried to hold marches. The Metropolitan Police—acting on orders from above—used sticks and tear gas, which succeeded in controlling the unrest.

[Begin first unidentified speaker recording] I saw a group of students who had run into building No. 3 being attacked. I live in front of that apartment, and I saw a policeman open fire on that building. I think this is uncalled for. We have a nursery school here and all the children were crying because of the tear gas. The situation in Nunez Ponce Street was a mess. All the mothers rushed in to pick up their children because the police were hunting students as if they were rabbits. [end recording]

Luis Caballero Mejias Polytechnical University Institute students were also subdued with tear gas, and some shots were fired from an undetermined location. Student Alejando Pinochet was hit in the back and was taken to the university campus clinic. Also taken to that clinic were students Yanitsa Lopez and Jose Castillo, wounded in street clashes.

[Begin recording] [Second unidentified speaker] There were problems, but now everything is calm. Three students who were arrested are being released. It seems they were carrying Molotov coctails and stones. Everything is quite now. We have reached a truce with the university's vice president and the students will leave the area.

[Unidentified reporter] Why did this happen?

[Speaker] To protest against the government and because students were wounded in recent disturbances all over Venezuela. [end recording]

In Caracas, students cornered a policeman from the Mendoza Metropolitan precinct who had infiltrated the student ranks to gather information. The 101st district prosecutor, Perez Diaz, had to step in to rescue this agent.

### 'Clandestine' Groups Blamed

*PA1304035291 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0030 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Metropolitan Police Commander General Gonzalo Bajares Colmenares has attributed the disturbances of the past few days to clandestine organizations that are taking advantage of innocent minors. Gen. Bajares Colmenares made these remarks at the inauguration of four new police stations.

[Begin Bajares Colmenares recording] It is important to note that the penal code prohibits the use of noxious substances, gasoline, fire arms, and all such things. Very often these organizations burn vehicles of innocent citizens who have invested their lifetime savings in such a purchase. These innocent people must pay for the excesses of certain maladjusted individuals who conceal their identities and burn buses. [end recording]

### Spanish King Juan Carlos Stops Over for Visit

*LD1404100191 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0700 GMT 14 Apr 91*

[Excerpt] King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia are now in Venezuela on a 48-hour visit, described as a technical stopover in the itinerary, which includes talks with President Carlos Andres Perez. From Caracas, special correspondent Javier Arenas reports on the king and queen's first hours in the country. Good morning:

[Arenas] Good morning. This is the first night in Caracas for the king and queen of Spain on their fourth visit to Venezuela. This was Juan Carlos's impromptu greeting on arrival at the Simon Bolivar Airport:

[Begin Juan Carlos recording] We feel very pleased to be here in Venezuela, on this trip, to spend a few days in Venezuela and continue the trip in Central America. On this occasion, I would like to address an informal greeting to all Venezuelans and to the Spaniards living in Venezuela, who are so many and whom so many of us in

Spain remember. Greetings to everyone and to you who are here, as well. [end recording] [passage omitted]

## Guyana

### Deputy Prime Minister Parris Steps Down

*FL1304174091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1711 GMT 13 Apr 91*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 13, CANA—Guyana's deputy prime minister with responsibility for planning and development, Haslyn Parris, has tendered his resignation, the government said. Parris, 50, plans to leave the job May 1. He indicated in his resignation letter that he will be pursuing some consultancy work. He also said he was writing a book on development.

He will remain a member of parliament and chairman of the board of the State Planning Commission. Parris has been a key figure in the government's divestment of unprofitable state entities. Guyana has two deputy prime ministers and a number of vice-presidents.

Meanwhile, 1972-74 Economic Development Minister Dr Kenneth King has been appointed as personal adviser to President Hoyte on development and administrative matters. Political analysts see King as a possible replacement for Parris. His appointment becomes effective on May 1.

### PCD Accepts Proposals on Electoral Changes

*FL1304005591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 12 Apr 91*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 12, CANA—The Guyana opposition Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) grouping on Friday accepted President Desmond Hoyte's proposals for electoral commission changes. A brief statement from the four PCD parties after talks involving two other opposition parties said they agreed to the three conditions set by Hoyte, and hoped the reforms will be completed in time to influence the present voter registration process.

The opposition parties began meeting Wednesday to draft a letter to President Hoyte accepting proposals for the removal of elections commission chairman Sir Harold Bollers and the expansion of the commission.

Hoyte, after meeting Belize Prime Minister George Price and another representative of the council of freely-elected heads of government, agreed a week ago to replace Bollers with one of a list of opposition nominees and to expand the commission if the PCD consented by Friday to three conditions. He required that the parties accept the proposals without reservations, pledge not to raise any further objections to electoral procedures as defined by law, and give public support to legislation to effect the change.

The coalition parties say they will also dispatch a second letter to Hoyte indicating the names of three new persons for the post of elections commission chairman after three of first five persons identified in an earlier list declined candidacy for the post. The PCD has declined to name the three new nominees.

Reports here said the original five names submitted by the opposition were former Guyana diplomat Rudy Collins, businessman Joey King, employers federation executive David Yankana, senior lawyer Ronald Luckhoo, and consumer activist Bryn Pollard.